

The top of the page features a scenic photograph of a lake reflecting a forested mountain range under a clear sky. A dark blue curved banner is overlaid on the left side of the image.

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

Along the Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes

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Idaho Department of Labor

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR

ROGER B. MADSEN, DIRECTOR

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WHY IDAHO WAGES WENT SOUTH

Idaho's evolution to the new economy secured diversity that buffers the state, to an extent, from the boom and bust cycles of the past. But it has come at the cost of competitive paychecks.

The dramatic decline of the state's natural resource industries over the past 30 years took with it the comparatively high-paying jobs timber and mining provided, especially in rural Idaho.

In many communities those jobs have not been replaced, and workers have migrated to the cities for construction, light manufacturing and service sector jobs. Two northern counties still had fewer workers in 2006 than in the 1970s. While some of these alternative jobs pay well, they typically pay less than the mines and the mills of the 1970s.

Compared to income nationally, Idaho's average annual wage peaked in 1977 at 87.5 percent of the national average as the timber sector thrived amid strong national growth. Idaho ranked 38th among all the states, the highest ranking the state has had in the last 40 years.

But from then on the gap steadily widened until Idaho's average annual wage dropped below 76 percent of the national average in 2003 and remained there until climbing back over 76 percent in 2006, one of the strongest economic years in recent memory. *See Wage Figure 1 on page 5.*

Average wages declined across the state over those three decades even as employment rose in all but four counties. But while the erosion was felt in almost every corner of Idaho, those sawmill and mining towns were hit the hardest. Their well-paid resource workers had been propping up the average statewide wage in the 1970s, and the sector's collapse was a major contributor to the decline in the statewide average wage since. New jobs and replacement jobs came to most of those communities but with much smaller paychecks.

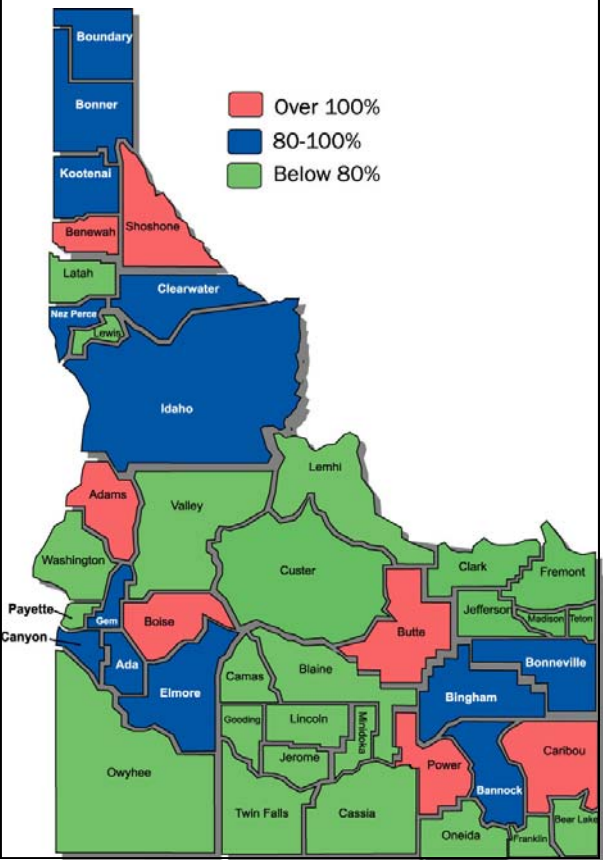
Given perceptions that the cost of living in Idaho is relatively low compared to other states along with other factors, it is unrealistic to expect Idaho workers, on average, would be paid wages that match the national average. But that alone makes the high wages in rural Idaho's mill and mining towns during the 1970s — wages that exceeded national averages — all the more significant against a national average significantly affected by high wages on the expensive East and West coasts, and their disappearance from Idaho in the years since is that much more distressing.

There are no statistics on the actual cost of living in Idaho — rural or urban. But at the end of 1977, the cost of living index for all cities under 50,000 — which would cover the bulk of Idaho outside the Boise metro area — was essentially the same as the cost of living index for American cities of every size — 62 compared to 62.1. The index for the big cities on the East Coast was already over 64.

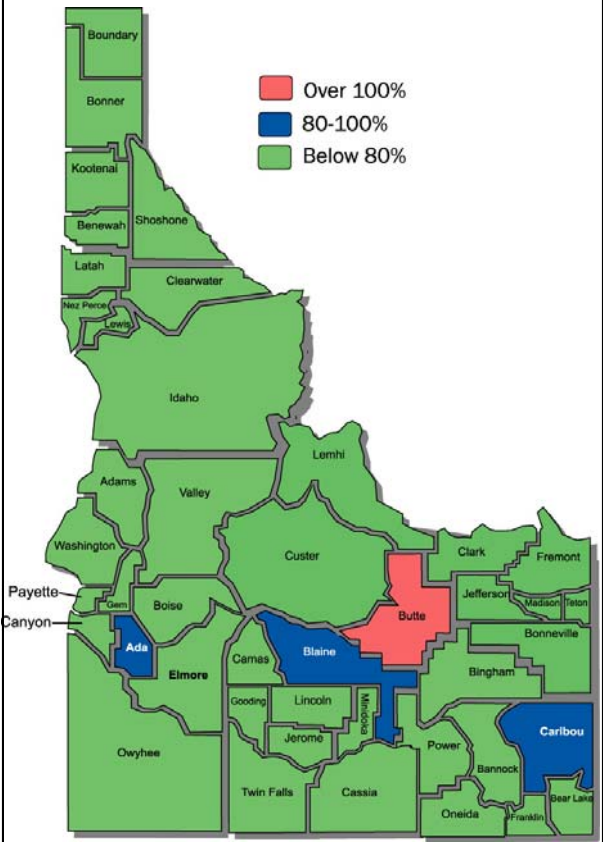
By 1990, however, the big cities were pulling away from the small ones. The index for cities under 50,000 was 127. It was 131 for all cities and around 135 for the big cities on the East and West coasts.

Last year, small communities across the nation had a cost of living index under 200. Cities overall in the United States were at 207, the big cities on the West Coast were at 215 and the East Coast was over 223. *See Wage Figure 2 on page 6.*

Idaho County Average Wage as Percent of U.S. Average, 1977



Idaho County Average Wage as Percent of U.S. Average, 2006



Wages in rural Idaho were following the cost of living — rising much more slowly than nearly all the other states, and that meant they were falling further behind. On average, the 11 counties most heavily reliant on mills and mining — Adams, Benewah, Boise, Bonner, Boundary, Clearwater, Gem, Idaho, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Shoshone — saw their comparative standing to the national average wage drop an average of 28 points, from 95 percent in 1977 to 67 percent in 2006. The other 33 counties declined 8.5 points from nearly 79 percent to just over 70 percent.

Most counties that had average wages above the national average in 1977 — Shoshone, Benewah, Adams, Boise, Power, Caribou and Butte — found their average wage had slipped below 80 percent and some below 70 percent of the national average by 2005.

Shoshone County dropped 39 points from 109 percent in 1977 to 70 percent in 2006 as mining dried up. The disappearance of sawmills sucked 32 points out of Clearwater County's average, dropping it from 99 percent to 67 percent of the national average.

Only Butte County, home to the Idaho National Laboratory and its high-paid scientists and researchers and little else, maintained wages well above the national average. Caribou County with its concentration of elemental phosphorus mining and processing remained at over 90 percent. Ada, the state's major business and government center, and Elmore, home to Mountain Home Air Force Base, posted average wages just above 90 percent of the national average.

Many events and policies played roles in shaping this trend, but none was more influential than the steady deterioration of timber and mining.

In the course of nearly 30 years — from 1977 when Idaho's average wage was at its peak in relation to the national average to 2005 when that wage had slumped nearly 12 points to less than 76 percent and ranked 47th among the states — the number of sawmills and mines declined by over half and their work forces plunged even more.

According to the Census Bureau's annual County Business Patterns reports, in 1977 there were 133 sawmills scattered across the state, almost exclusively in small rural communities. Those mills employed over 7,600. Another 41 mines — gold, silver, lead and other metals — had combined payrolls of over 2,100.

By 2005 — four national recessions and Idaho's mid-1980s near-depression later — barely 3,000 people were working at the 53 sawmills left in Idaho, and fewer than

600 were employed at the remaining 20 mines. While the recent run-up in metal prices has brightened mining prospects in counties like the Panhandle's Shoshone, timber has taken even more hits since 2005.

The numbers themselves are comparatively small, even for a state like Idaho, but their magnitude is intensified by the size of the paychecks and the rural concentration of the jobs.

The Situation in 1977

In 1977, Idaho's five biggest counties — Ada, Bannock, Bonneville, Canyon and Twin Falls — accounted for over 57 percent of all jobs but only six of the 133 sawmills. That left rural counties with nearly all 7,600 of those mill jobs



and their paychecks averaging 33 percent more than the statewide average wage. Those mill jobs accounted for 8 percent of all the jobs outside the five big counties. Mill workers were making nearly \$14,600 a year, about \$3,500 more than millworkers nationally. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the average annual wage in Idaho was just over \$9,600, and the national average was just short of \$11,000.

Twenty-eight years later in 2005, Idaho mill workers were still earning good money — about \$40,000 a year on average compared to the state average wage of just under \$30,000 and the national average of more than \$38,000. But there were fewer than half their number from 1977, and they accounted for barely 1 percent of all workers outside Ada, Canyon, Bonneville, Bannock and Twin Falls counties.

Idaho's hard-rock miners were in as enviable a position. Their annual average paycheck of \$16,000 in 1977 was not only \$5,000 above the national average wage for all jobs but also several hundred dollars above the national average for miners. It was also \$6,000 higher than the state average.

By 2005, the few miners who remained were still averaging about twice the statewide wage but had fallen below the national average wage of \$62,000 for metal miners.

Losing those jobs took its toll statewide and clearly in the counties with mines and mills. According to the Census Bureau's County Business Patterns reports, of the wages paid statewide in 1977, 6 percent came from the mills and mines. But in timber and mining counties, the share from the mills and mines was dramatically higher. For example, a third of Shoshone County's labor force worked in the mines and claimed 49 percent of the wages paid countywide. In Boundary County 45 percent of the people worked in the 20 sawmills, and they raked in 62 percent of all the wages paid in the county.

Twenty-eight years later, just 1 percent of all Idaho wages were paid by the mills and mines. Shoshone County's miners were just a fourth of their number in 1977 — under 12 percent of the work force — and less than 19 percent of countywide wages went to them. Filling that void were retail and service jobs. What had provided just 14 percent of the wages in the county in 1977 was now providing 46 percent — in retail and service paychecks averaging \$27,000 a year, well below the \$44,000 the remaining miners were still averaging. Almost half the workers in the county were in retail or service jobs in 2005.

Boundary County lost a third of its mill jobs between 1977 and 2005 and saw mill wages overall fall below 18 percent of total wages. Retail and service jobs, once fewer than the jobs in sawmills, grew to over 800, nearly triple the mill jobs that were left, and provided 29 percent of all wages. That was up 10 points from 1977. But those retail and services workers were averaging just \$19,300 a year while the few hundred millworkers left in the county were making \$33,500.

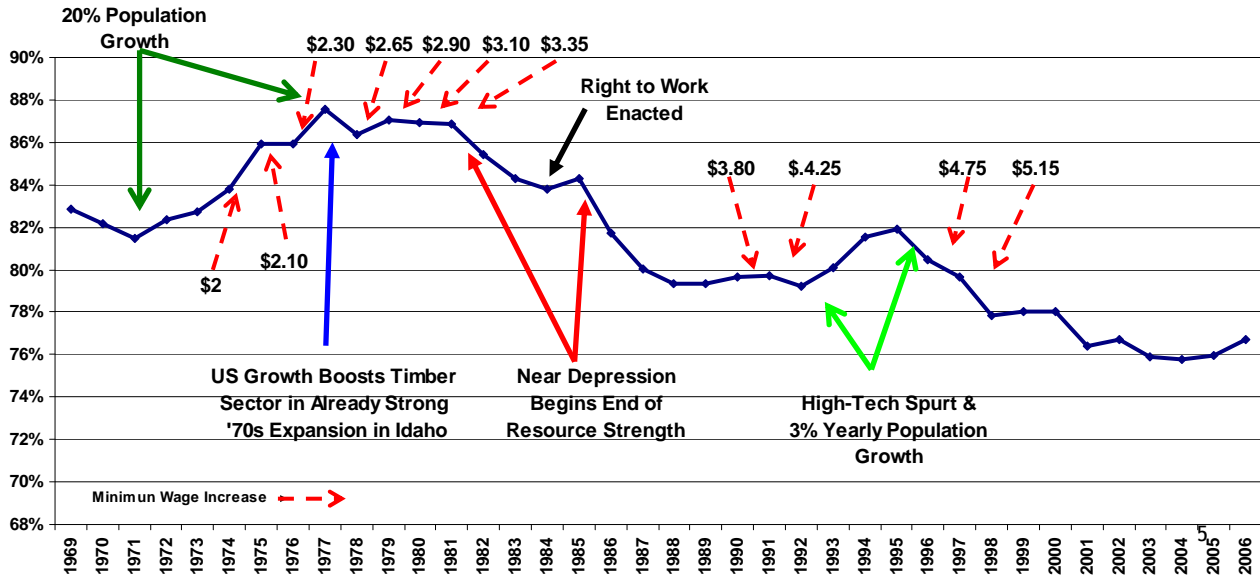


This story has been retold in any number of rural Idaho counties that had once relied heavily on natural resources and now exist to a great extent on tourism, retail and services.

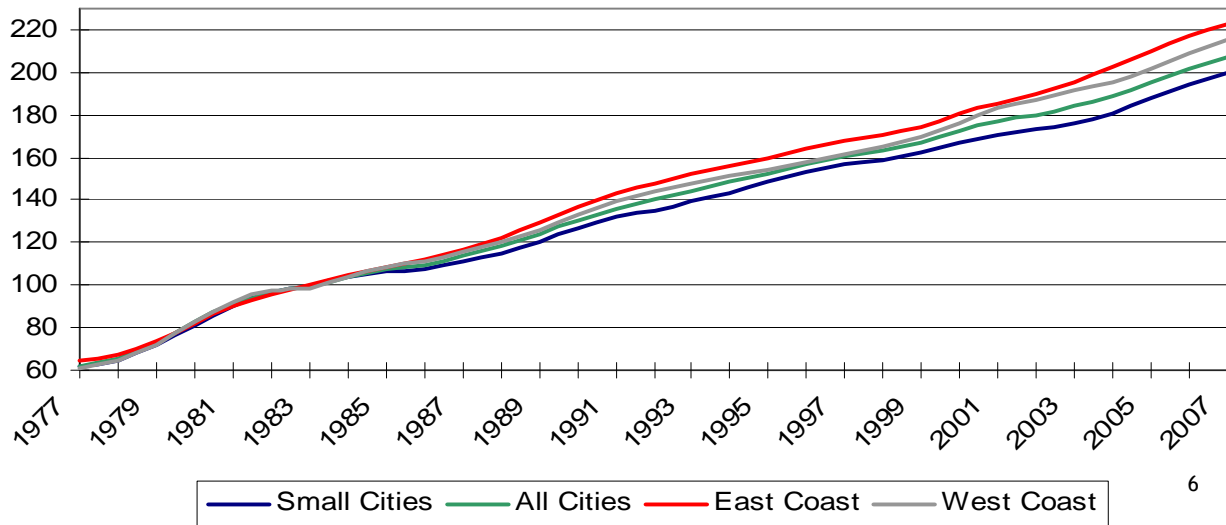
See all wage figures related to the article on pages 5-9.

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Wage Figure 1: Idaho Wage as a Percent of National Wage



Wage Figure 2: Cost of Living Index, 1977-2007



Wage Figure 3: Idaho Counties With Timber, Metal Mining Operations

<i>Five largest counties highlighted</i>				
	Sawmills		Mines	
	1977	2005	1977	2005
Idaho	133	53	41	20
Ada	4	1	4	1
Adams	2	1	0	0
Bannock	0	0	0	0
Bear Lake	1	1	0	0
Benewah	13	3	0	0
Bingham	0	0	1	0
Blaine	1	1	1	0
Boise	4	3	1	0
Bonner	20	8	0	1
Bonneville	1	1	0	0
Boundary	9	8	0	0
Canyon	0	0	0	0
Caribou	0	0	2	0
Clearwater	14	5	0	0
Custer	0	0	2	1
Elmore	1	0	0	1
Franklin	0	0	0	1
Fremont	2	0	0	0
Gem	2	1	0	0
Idaho	11	3	0	0
Kootenai	17	7	1	6
Latah	10	1	0	0
Lemhi	4	0	0	0
Lewis	4	3	0	0
Madison	1	1	0	0
Nez Perce	3	1	0	1
Owyhee	0	0	1	0
Payette	1	1	0	0
Shoshone	5	1	26	7
Twin Falls	1	1	1	0
Valley	1	0	1	1
Washington	1	1	0	0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Wage Figure 4: Economy of Selected Northern Idaho Counties, 1977 and 2005*

County	Sector	1977				2005			
		Amount (000)	% of Total	Average Wage	Employ- ment	Amount (000)	% of Total	Average Wage	Employ- ment
Idaho	Total	\$2,391,023	100.00%	\$10,904	219,275	\$15,397,889	100.00%	\$28,188	546,251
	Mining	\$33,824	1.41%	\$15,940	2,122	\$35,000	0.23%	\$59,322	590
	Sawmills	\$110,861	4.64%	\$14,560	7,614	\$119,297	0.77%	\$39,542	3,017
	Retail & Services	\$715,908	29.94%	\$7,436	96,270	\$4,983,195	32.36%	\$21,845	228,111
Bonner	Total	\$39,695	100.00%	\$10,095	3,932	\$356,405	100.00%	\$27,755	12,841
	Sawmills	\$13,750	34.64%	\$12,996	1,058	\$24,600	6.90%	\$42,341	581
	Retail & Services	\$9,884	24.90%	\$6,264	1,578	\$91,872	25.78%	\$19,216	4,781
Boundary	Total	\$10,938	100.00%	\$10,437	1,048	\$55,907	100.00%	\$23,372	2,392
	Sawmills	\$6,805	62.21%	\$14,510	469	\$10,050	17.98%	\$33,500	300
	Retail & Services	\$2,083	19.04%	\$5,540	376	\$16,165	28.91%	\$19,313	837
Clearwater	Total	\$27,727	100.00%	\$13,659	2,030	\$48,824	100.00%	\$27,155	1,798
	Sawmills	\$8,144	29.37%	\$16,255	501	\$4,195	8.59%	\$30,846	136
	Retail & Services	\$3,848	13.88%	\$6,277	613	\$9,509	19.48%	\$18,719	508
Idaho	Total	\$23,101	100.00%	\$10,534	2,193	\$79,624	100.00%	\$25,710	3,097
	Sawmills	\$9,821	42.51%	\$15,466	635	\$12,697	15.95%	\$45,346	280
	Retail & Services	\$4,063	17.59%	\$5,846	695	\$18,551	23.30%	\$16,173	1,147
Kootenai	Total	\$97,786	100.00%	\$10,180	9,606	\$1,218,763	100.00%	\$27,455	44,391
	Sawmills	\$17,156	17.54%	\$15,568	1,102	\$16,180	1.33%	\$40,349	401
	Retail & Services	\$30,262	30.95%	\$6,743	4,488	\$406,722	33.37%	\$20,072	20,263
Shoshone	Total	\$58,224	100.00%	\$11,251	5,175	\$98,771	100.00%	\$27,667	3,570
	Sawmills	\$1,047	1.80%	\$10,906	96	\$1,041	1.05%	\$26,025	40
	Mining	\$28,516	48.98%	\$16,239	1,756	\$18,105	18.33%	\$44,159	410
	Retail & Services	\$8,073	13.87%	\$5,614	1,438	\$45,759	46.33%	\$27,060	1,691

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Patterns

*Average wage numbers may not agree with those calculated by the Bureau of Economic Analysis because of different calculation methods.

Wage Figure 5: Wages and Employment, 1977 & 2006

County	1977			2006		
	Average Wage	% of US	Employment	Average Wage	% of US	Employment
United States	10,993	100.0%	89,970,000	41,991	100.0%	143,249,000
Idaho	9,624	87.5%	345,508	32,225	76.7%	693,792
Ada	10,655	96.9%	75,122	38,647	92.0%	221,234
Adams	11,812	107.5%	1,042	25,579	60.9%	1,346
Bannock	9,860	89.7%	26,302	28,279	67.3%	38,442
Bear Lake	7,210	65.6%	1,580	21,879	52.1%	1,841
Benewah	11,052	100.5%	2,466	30,683	73.1%	3,889
Bingham	9,073	82.5%	11,880	27,568	65.7%	15,338
Blaine	7,850	71.4%	4,449	34,475	82.1%	15,064
Boise	11,261	102.4%	1,106	25,435	60.6%	1,810
Bonner	9,436	85.8%	6,016	29,743	70.8%	15,641
Bonneville	9,914	90.2%	25,878	32,490	77.4%	51,205
Boundary	9,174	83.5%	2,112	26,859	64.0%	3,692
Butte	14,243	129.6%	6,004	68,130	162.2%	4,888
Camas	7,892	71.8%	371	26,022	62.0%	450
Canyon	8,952	81.4%	28,999	29,014	69.1%	59,652
Caribou	11,586	105.4%	3,283	37,968	90.4%	3,483
Cassia	8,180	74.4%	7,748	26,379	62.8%	9,694
Clark	7,162	65.2%	432	29,071	69.2%	630
Clearwater	10,878	99.0%	3,790	28,312	67.4%	3,438
Custer	7,944	72.3%	905	32,844	78.2%	1,693
Elmore	9,443	85.9%	9,275	33,545	79.9%	11,433
Franklin	6,792	61.8%	1,996	24,186	57.6%	3,450
Fremont	8,055	73.3%	3,090	27,785	66.2%	3,310
Gem	9,151	83.2%	3,028	24,572	58.5%	3,954
Gooding	7,322	66.6%	3,161	27,001	64.3%	6,153
Idaho	9,776	88.9%	4,289	26,863	64.0%	5,012
Jefferson	7,471	68.0%	3,919	23,000	54.8%	6,648
Jerome	7,610	69.2%	4,240	27,675	65.9%	8,423
Kootenai	9,360	85.1%	15,621	29,647	70.6%	58,232
Latah	8,219	74.8%	10,417	25,383	60.4%	16,795
Lemhi	8,036	73.1%	2,079	23,820	56.7%	3,022
Lewis	8,020	73.0%	1,142	22,859	54.4%	1,597
Lincoln	8,121	73.9%	1,070	26,389	62.8%	1,634
Madison	7,903	71.9%	5,906	23,732	56.5%	14,127
Minidoka	7,891	71.8%	6,740	26,223	62.4%	7,359
Nez Perce	10,799	98.2%	15,842	31,081	74.0%	22,379
Oneida	7,286	66.3%	754	22,078	52.6%	1,202
Owyhee	8,010	72.9%	2,397	26,103	62.2%	2,777
Payette	8,560	77.9%	3,720	27,049	64.4%	6,930
Power	11,658	106.0%	4,407	30,145	71.8%	3,371
Shoshone	11,973	108.9%	7,058	29,526	70.3%	4,784
Teton	7,027	63.9%	698	27,492	65.5%	2,986
Twin Falls	8,378	76.2%	20,509	26,504	63.1%	36,165
Valley	8,516	77.5%	1,969	29,453	70.1%	5,026
Washington	8,187	74.5%	2,696	24,139	57.5%	3,593

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

JULY'S JOB GROWTH TAKES BIGGER DIP THAN USUAL

Job growth in Idaho turned even more negative in July. Typically there is a slight decline in jobs from June to July, but this year the loss of over 1 percent is nearly twice the norm. Steeper than normal job declines in government and professional and business services overwhelmed mild month-to-month gains in Idaho's other employment sectors.

July's total nonfarm jobs fell 6,700 from June to 657,600. Had the month followed the average, the job loss would have been around 4,200.

Year-over-year July 2008 fell 0.76 percent short of July 2007. Without any further growth through the rest of this year, nonfarm jobs in 2008 will total below the 2007 level.

Construction posted seasonal gains in July, advancing 1.63 percent or 800 jobs. This is little consolation when compared to the loss of 4,600 construction jobs since July 2007, an 8.3 percent reduction. This was a record July year-to-year loss since current statistical reporting began in 1990.

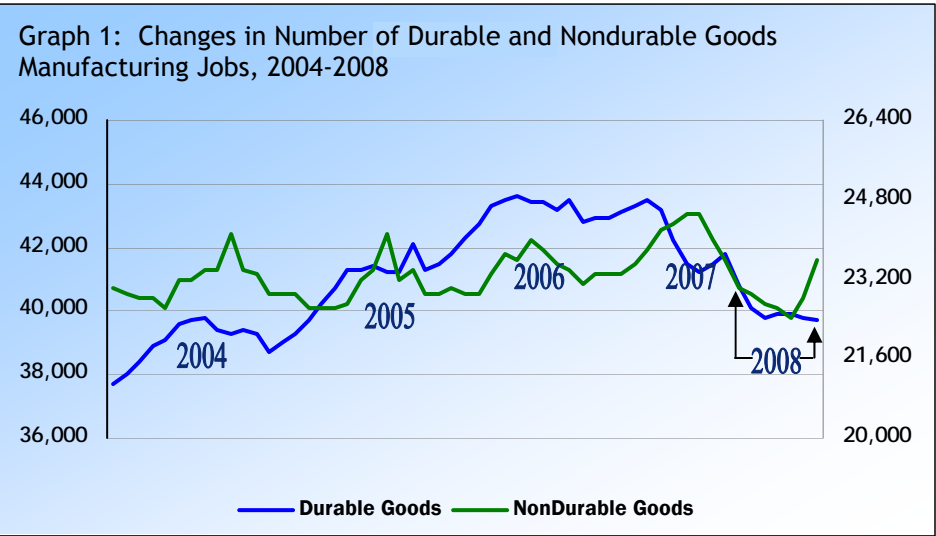
Manufacturing showed a greater-than-seasonal increase, picking up 800 jobs, or 1.28 percent, from June. Over the last five years, manufacturing has averaged just 0.7 percent growth from June to July. However, this increase lies within the nondurable goods sector, which experienced a job increase of 3.6 percent. The durable goods portion of manufacturing fell just under a tenth of a percent.

The downward trend that began in durable goods production in July 2007 has continued unabated. The initial 1,112 jobs that were lost from the Micron layoff during summer 2007 were followed by the loss of another 2,400 durable goods jobs. There are now 8.1 percent fewer jobs than there were a year ago when the slide began, reducing total durable goods jobs to their July 2004 level. The sector provides some of the highest wages to the greatest number of workers of all employment sectors in Idaho, and the loss of jobs has serious implications for the fiscal health of business and government throughout the state.

In contrast, jobs in nondurable goods production have remained relatively flat since 2004 despite its seasonal fluctuations. The seasonal increase of July's employment for manufacturing is purely due to this sector.

Government lost 7,700 jobs from June, in large part due to exodus of teachers as schools closed for the summer. However, this decline was a third of a percentage point higher than the average for the last five years.

Professional and business services lost 1,100 jobs from June, a 1.36 percent drop. The five-year average decline is just a third of a percent. This sector is down 1.5 percent from July 2007.

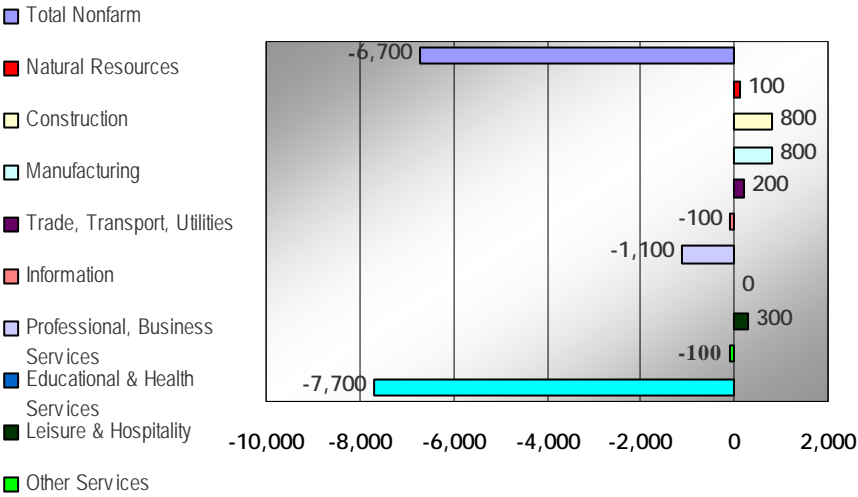


The first half of the calendar year is Idaho's strongest for employment growth, and the second half posts only modest gains if any at all. Most economic analyses indicate that housing price declines and the woes of the credit market will continue into 2009. The final half of 2008 must maintain job levels even with those of a year earlier if there is to be any chance that 2008 will climb out of negative territory and close above 2007. This, however, seems unlikely given the economic climate.

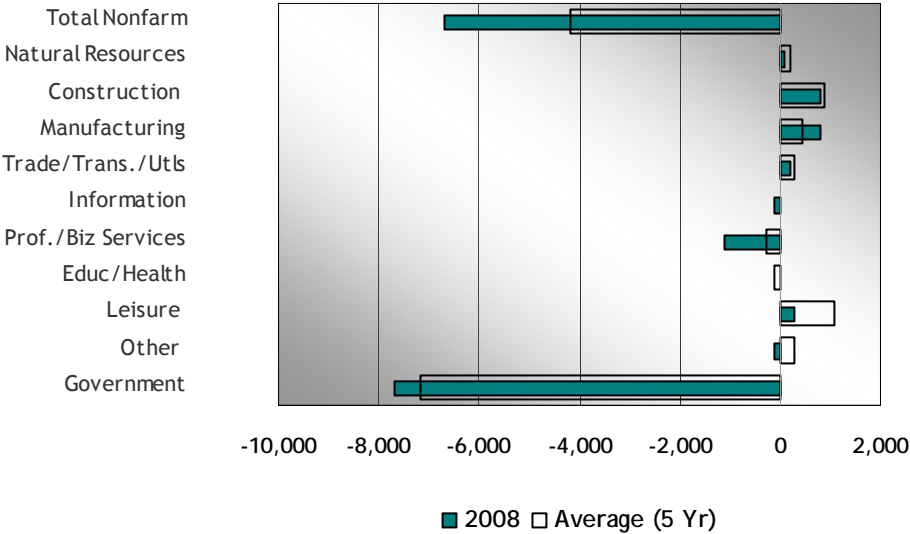
See accompanying graphs below and on the next page.

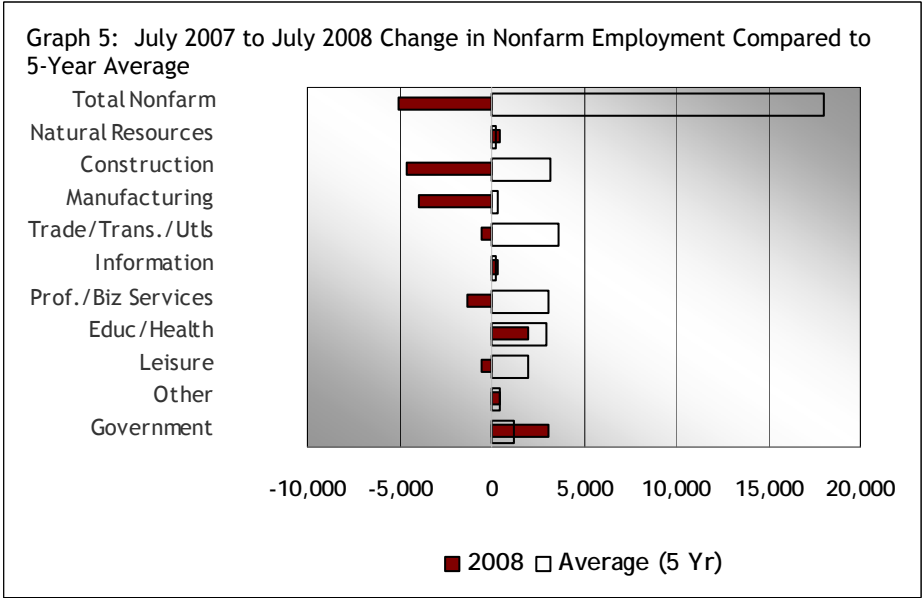
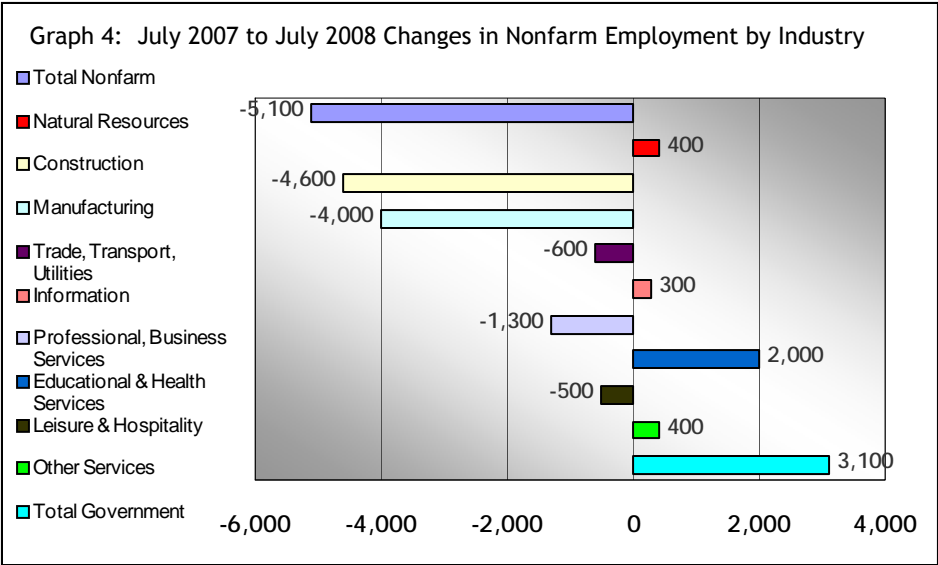
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Graph 2: June to July 2008 Changes in Nonfarm Employment by Industry



Graph 3: June to July 2008 Change in Nonfarm Employment Compared to 5-Year Average





IDAHO EMPLOYMENT, WAGE ACTIVITY – 4TH QUARTER 2007

Idaho fourth quarter employment covered by unemployment insurance decreased 10,363 to 664,713 from the previous quarter. That was down 1.6 percent following a third quarter increase of 1.3 percent. Private employment accounted for over 83 percent, or 551,768, of average employment in the final three months of the year. In contrast, government employment including educational services averaged 112,722, up 2 percent from the summer quarter's 110,554. This sector has shown the usual seasonal increase of over 2,000 jobs with the return to school after the summer break.

Government was the leading sector in Idaho, employing 112,722 in the fourth quarter. Retail trade contained over 12 percent of total employment at 85,678 followed by health care and social assistance with 67,360, or just over 10 percent of total employment. *See Figure 1 on page 14.*

Manufacturing was the third largest industry with 65,473 jobs. Nevertheless, a decline of 1.9 percent in manufacturing marked the third consecutive quarter of job losses in that sector. Half of all employment in Idaho remained in these four industries for the fourth quarter. Mining and utilities employed the fewest workers at 2,736 and 2,054, respectively.

The average weekly wage for all industries in Idaho was \$686 in the fourth quarter of 2007. The highest average weekly wage of \$1,334 was in management of companies and enterprises followed by utilities at \$1,223 and professional and technical services at \$1,082. Leisure and hospitality services offered the lowest weekly wage at \$253. *See Figure 2 on page 15.*

Government added the most jobs from the third to fourth quarter with 2,187 followed closely by retail trade with 1,738 jobs. Health care and social assistance had the highest job increase year over year with 3,313. Alternatively, professional and technical services for the first time in seven years reported its third consecutive quarterly decrease in employment, and construction and real estate showed more than the usual seasonal decline in employment from the previous quarter. With the housing market slowing significantly, construction shed 4,719 jobs, breaking 2001's record of 4,071 fewer jobs in the fourth quarter. *See accompanying figures on pages 14-15.*

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BOISE-NAMPA AREA PLANS Mature Worker Job Fair

Local companies will be recruiting for salaried and hourly positions in restaurants, hotels, management, education, customer service, health care, driving and transportation, warehousing and manufacturing, clerical and administrative and *more!*

This event is free to attend!
Dress for success and bring plenty of résumés!

October 4, 2008 ♦ 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Meridian School District Building
1303 Central Drive ♦ Meridian, Idaho

Free workshops offered
throughout the day

9:00-9:30 a.m. Job Search Strategy
9:30-10:00 a.m. Work Force Preparation and Training
10:00-10:45 a.m. Cover Letter and Résumé Development
10:45-11:30 a.m. Interviewing
11:30 a.m.-Noon Capitalizing on Job Fairs
Noon-12:30 p.m. Keeping Current
12:30-1:30 p.m. How AARP Can Help You Find A Job
1:30-2:15 p.m. Employer Recruitment and Retention
Workshop

For more information, log onto labor.idaho.gov for a map and directions and other updates as they develop or call 332-3570 ext. 3545.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Idaho Commission on Aging, Idaho Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service, AARP Idaho, Experience Works Inc., Professional Technical Education · Adult Basic Education/GED, SW Idaho Area Agency on Aging, a division of Sage Community Resources, Idaho State AFL-CIO and the Meridian School District.

Figure 1: Idaho Employment by Industry – 4th Quarter Average 2007

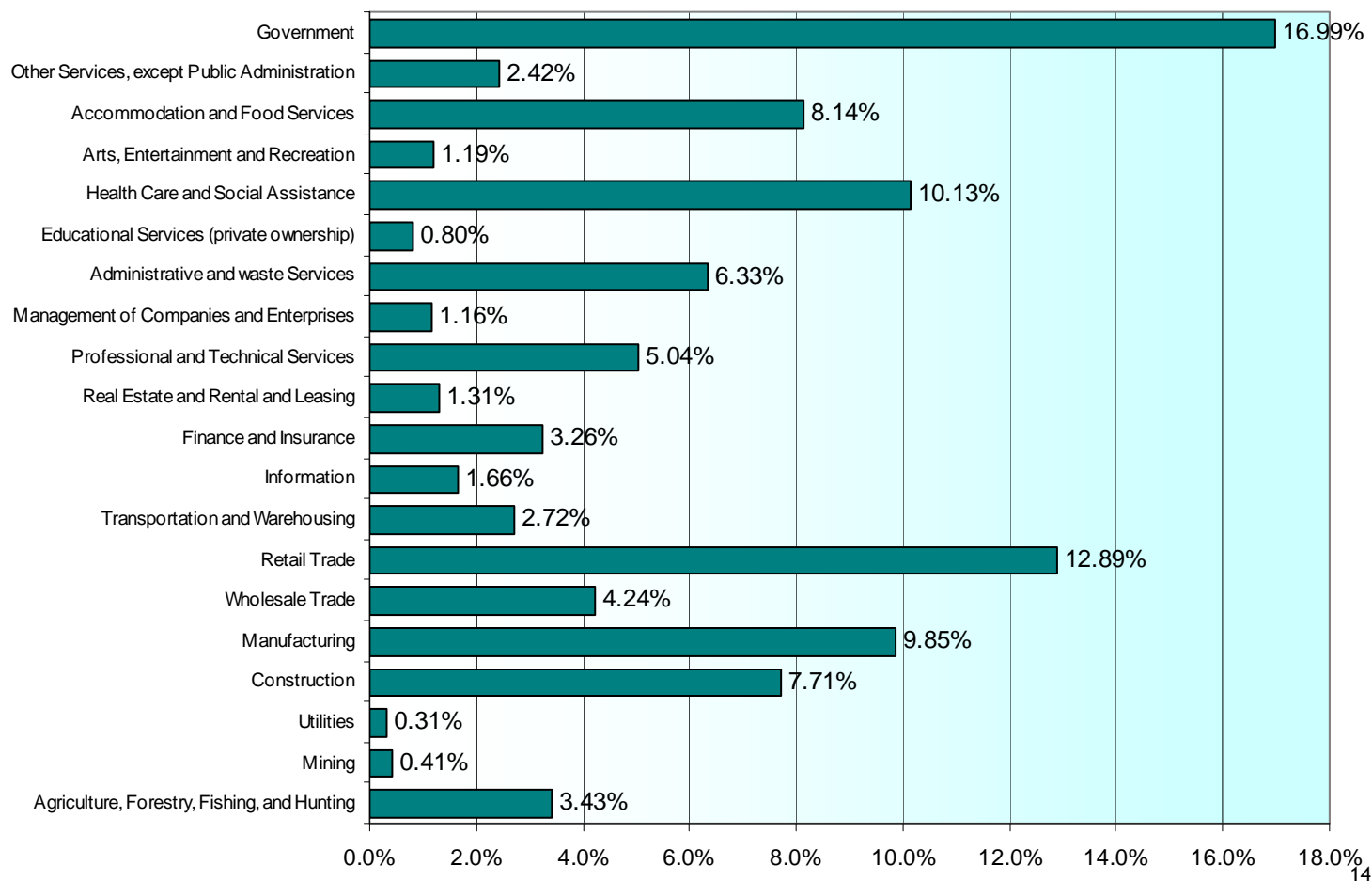
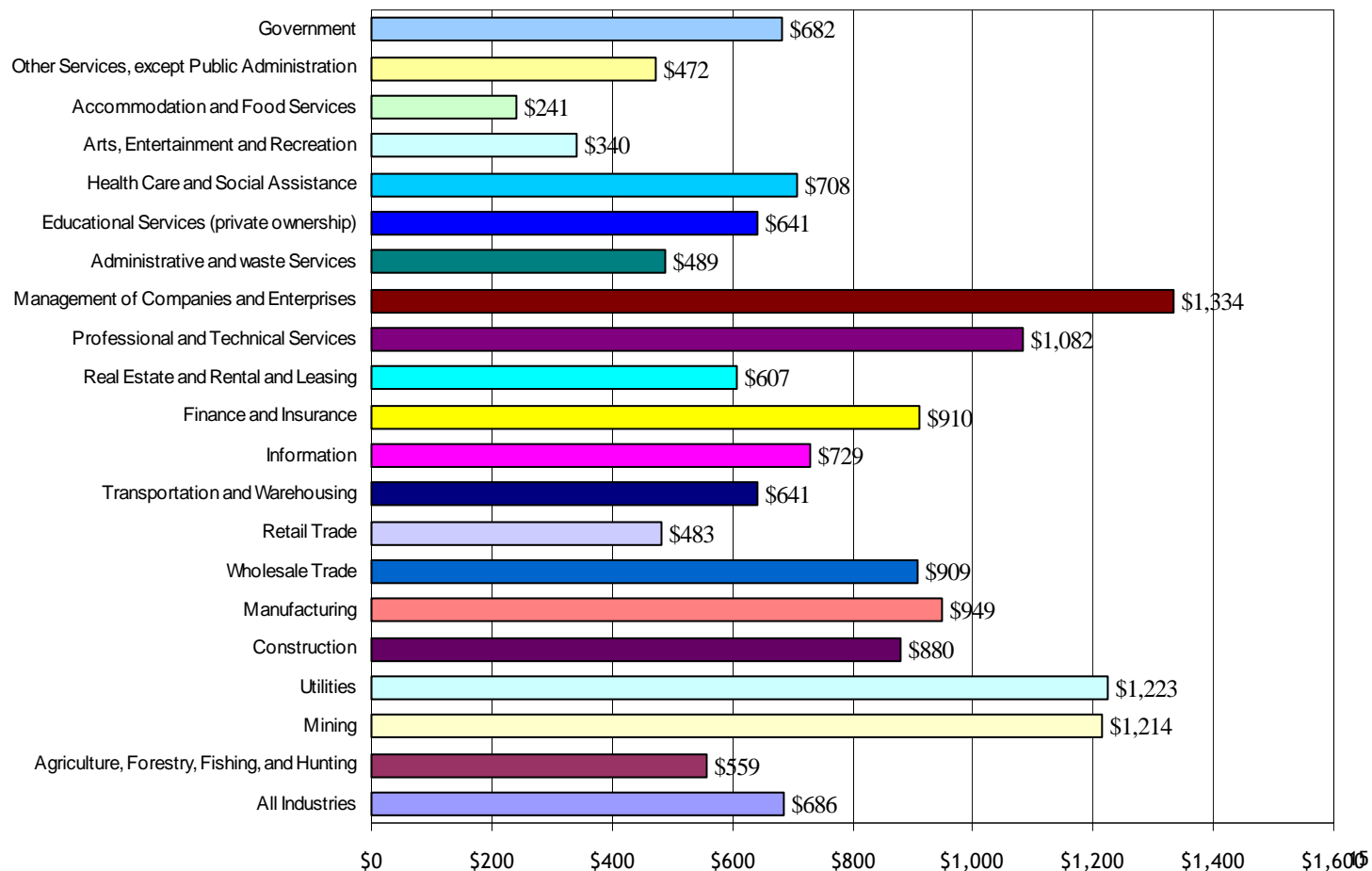


Figure 2: Idaho Weekly Average Wages by Industry – 4th Quarter 2007



PANHANDLE

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes, the increasingly popular 79-mile bicycle trail from Mullan to Plummer on a former railway line, remains closed between Medimont and Harrison. Flooding in late May washed out 80 feet of the trail next to Lake Coeur d'Alene. Union Pacific, which is responsible for the repairs, expects to reopen the trail in late August. But that has left bicycle rental shops and other businesses along the trail missing most of the summer tourist trade. The businesses most hurt by the closure are retail stores and restaurants that have opened in the last three years in Harrison as the trail has drawn more and more tourists to the charming town on the south end of Lake Coeur d'Alene.
- Citylink, the free public transportation service covering the Coeur d'Alene Reservation and the Coeur d'Alene-Post Falls area, has seen its ridership nearly double in the last 12 months. In June, 33,311 passengers rode Citylink buses compared to 18,089 in June 2007. Higher gas prices and growing awareness of the bus system's convenience are driving the passenger increase.

Citylink serves Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Hayden, Worley, Plummer, Tensed and DeSmet with eight buses daily on five routes and nearly 90 individual stops. The most growth has been on the three urban routes. With demand rising and buses aging, Citylink, which is operated by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, has ordered several mid-sized buses to replace the existing fleet and to increase capacity. And it is also looking at buying bigger buses in the future.

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Benewah County recently received \$226,000 in grants from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to upgrade recreation facilities. The grants include \$32,150 for landscaping and improvements at the Fernwood Water & Sewer District RV dump station, \$150,000 for improvements at the Benewah Campground and \$43,983 for the Benewah County Sheriff's Office to purchase a marine patrol boat. The money comes from a variety of sources including registration fees for boats, RVs, snowmobiles, motorbikes and ATVs.
- Pinwheel Greenhouse & Gifts recently opened in Fernwood, featuring a variety of annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, trees and gardening gifts.

BONNER COUNTY

- Quest Aircraft in Sandpoint originally designed its Kodiak airplane to perform humanitarian missions, but now Quest has received certification for parachute jump operations. The jump plane modifications include a roll-down door that can be closed from the pilot's seat, a wing-mounted camera, a 14-inch photographer step, a wind detector, jump lights and internal and external grab rails that run the length of the door. After delivering its first Kodiak last year, Quest is currently working through a three-year backlog of orders. Quest now employs 250 people at the Sandpoint airport and expects to expand.

- The Sandpoint area Habitat for Humanity affiliate opened a materials store in a 6,500-square-foot building behind Panhandle Special Needs in Sandpoint in August. The Habitat ReStore sells new and used building materials including lumber, plumbing and electrical supplies, paint, appliances, cabinets, doors, windows, tools and lighting fixtures. The store's proceeds will help purchase more land to build more houses for families needing homes.
- The many artists and artisans living in the Sandpoint area often draw inspiration from the natural beauty that surrounds them. Stepping Stones Studio in Sandpoint recently won Bon Appétit's cabinet hardware competition with lamps, door knobs and drawer pulls made from glacial and river rocks owner Thomas Ward finds on canoe trips and walks.
- With the assistance of two grants, East Hope, a city of 218 near Lake Pend Oreille, is recovering from a nearly catastrophic failure of its water system. In mid-May, flood runoff breached the dam at the city's water filtration system. The access road was damaged and the dam destroyed. Volunteers temporarily diverted a seasonal stream to provide water. But needing to make major repairs, the city assisted by the Panhandle Area Council secured a \$90,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant to rebuild the access road and \$500,000 from USDA Rural Development to repair the dam and filtration system.
- Thorne Research Chief Executive Al Czap has introduced a new benefit to his employees — the fill 'er up. Thorne manufactures nutritional supplements in Dover, a few miles west of Sandpoint. To show appreciation for Thorne employees and recognize the increased cost of commuting to work, Czap has twice paid to fill up the gas tanks of all 140 employees. He first surprised his employees with the offer in late May. Then he again made the offer the week before the Fourth of July. He next plans to provide the same benefit the week before Labor Day.
- JD Lumber in Priest River recently announced plans to sell its sawmill to Laclede-based Riley Creek Lumber effective this September. JD Lumber officials cited the continuing poor market for finished lumber as a key reason for the decision. JD Lumber will retain its forestry staff and clerk during the transition and future operations will be evaluated in the spring, officials stated. Approximately 216 people work at the Priest River facility.
- Riley Creek Lumber Co. is merging with Bennett Forest Industries, which operates a sawmill in Grangeville in Idaho County. After the merger, which will be completed by Sept. 1, about 550 people will work for the new company's four mills in Laclede, Grangeville, Moyie Springs and Chilco. The mills will produce nearly 1 billion board feet of lumber annually, making it large enough to get the attention of Home Depot, Lowe's and other lumber retailers. Both Bennett and Riley Creek are family owned and have invested heavily in keeping their sawmills modern and efficient. With access to retail markets that previously were closed to them separately, the combined company should be able to better withstand one of the worst lumber markets in history. Scott Atkison, the grandson of Dick Bennett and the manager of the Grangeville mill, will be in charge of day-to-day operations as president and chief executive of the new company. Marc Brinkmeyer, owner of Riley Creek, will be chairman of the board. A name for the new company hasn't been announced.
- The Panida, the historic theater in downtown Sandpoint, recently completed a \$40,000 renovation that created a Little Theater in the building immediately north of the main theater. Like the main Panida theater, the Little Theater will host film screenings, concerts, comedy nights, galas and seminars and provide valuable rehearsal space. Three years ago, USA Today named the Panida one of the great classic movie theaters in the United

States. Built in 1927, its Spanish mission style exterior is one of the main attractions that tourists find so alluring in Sandpoint's classic downtown. The building had been slated for demolition in the 1980s, but community members rescued and renovated the theater, which now plays a major role in bringing cinematic masterpieces and performing arts to a community that greatly values the arts.

- Priest River also is restoring one of its downtown treasures that includes a classic theater built in the 1920s. Logging baron Charles Beardmore built the 32,000-square-foot Beardmore Block to house the offices of logging and sawmill companies, a general store, butcher shop, barbershop, apartments and the 225-seat Rex Theater. Three years ago, his great-grandson, Seattle architect Brian Runberg, purchased the decaying Beardmore Block and began restoring it. The project emphasizes green design, integrating both new and old technologies from natural daylight to rainwater recycling, from material reuse to harvesting solar power through photovoltaic panels. Preservation Idaho recently honored Runberg for his work. The Beardmore renovation has been a catalyst for Priest River to begin other work to revitalize its downtown, including creating an urban renewal district and commissioning plans to open up its riverfront area. Runberg is hoping a coffee shop, restaurant, offices and a basement pub will move into the Beardmore. A nonprofit foundation recently formed to raise funds to restore the Rex Theater into a regional performing arts, cinema and civic auditorium. The theater held its grand opening in 1923 when Nell Shipman's movie "The Grubstake" premiered. Nell Shipman was a star, writer, director and producer in the silent screen era, who made many films at her studio on Priest Lake.

BOUNDARY COUNTY

- Boundary County's retail sector continues to grow as new businesses open and as existing businesses get a boost from the large number of Canadians enjoying how much their loonies can buy in the U.S. these days. Boundary County's retail employment grew 6.4 percent from 380 in the first quarter of 2007 to 405 in the first quarter of 2008. One of the newest retailers in the county is The Athletic Connection. The Main Street business does screen printing for sports teams and businesses on T-shirts and caps. It also engraves trophies and plaques.
- The popular Discover Channel television series "Dirty Jobs" will feature Forked Tree Ranch near Porthill in September or October. The ranch is the largest maggot and fly farm in the country. The farm's owners, Dennis and Pam Ponsness and one full-time employee grow maggots for fishing bait or to metamorphose into flies to pollinate hybrid vegetables in greenhouses. The Ponsnesses turned their seed potato farm into a maggot ranch in the late 1980s, as they became aware of the potential profits. Maggot ranching creates a terrible odor and involves dealing with squirmy white creatures, so it fits for "Dirty Jobs," which profiles occupations that involve filth or unappealing odors. It's the first time "Dirty Jobs" has filmed a segment in Idaho.

KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Coeur d'Alene ranked third on the 2008 list of Best U.S. Cities for Doing Business, released by INC.com and Newgeography.com in July. Only Midland, Texas, and St. George, Utah, ranked higher, according to the list, which was based on current and long-term employment growth trends. The Coeur d'Alene metropolitan area is an attractive place to live and provides a low-cost, business-friendly environment.
- Mutual Materials, a new store in Hayden, sells masonry, paving stones and landscape materials. It employs seven.

- Silverwood Theme Park's newest ride made its debut in mid-July. The 191-foot steel inverted boomerang rollercoaster is nearly twice as tall as the park's next highest rollercoaster. Silverwood bought the rollercoaster from Six Flags Great America near Chicago nine months ago. The purchase, transport and setup of the Aftershock ride cost about \$3 million. Judging by the enthusiastic response, the rollercoaster will draw not only more locals to the park but thousands of tourists from Seattle and Canada. Last summer, Silverwood employed more than 800 people.
- The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation recently began work on a \$2 million sewage treatment facility to replace aging leach fields at Farragut State Park on the southeast shore of Lake Pend Oreille. Beginning this fall, the majority of septic waste collected across the 4,000-acre recreation area including restrooms and an RV dumping site will be piped to a sewage facility in the center of the park. It will be treated and then sit in open air lagoons before being sprayed across 60 acres of trees and grass. The new facility will be able to handle triple the amount of sewage dumped in the park's current leach field, which will allow park expansion down the road. The new facility also will better prevent contamination of the Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer that supplies water to nearly 500,000 residents of Kootenai County and Spokane County, Wash.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- A Canadian mining company plans to purchase the Sunshine Mine near Kellogg from Sterling Mining Co. for \$62.3 million. The purchase is expected to be completed by December. Sterling, which bought the dormant mine in 2003 and brought it back into production last December, recently disclosed that cash flow problems were forcing it to find a partner or sell. The mine is not yet profitable, but is expected to operate in the black by the end of the year. The mine has estimated reserves of 240 million ounces. About 170 miners currently work at the Sunshine. The new owner, Minco Silver Corp., expects to hire 60 more people after the merger.
- U.S. Silver Corp., owner of the Galena Mine near Silverton, reported \$1 million in profits during the first quarter. Since purchasing the mine two years ago, U.S. Silver has more than doubled employment to 210 miners plus 65 contractors.
- Just a couple of months after opening the first My Big Fat Greek Deli, Chris Kostas has opened a second. The success of the deli in Pinehurst led to Kostas opening a new one in the historic railroad depot in Kellogg in mid-July. The Northern Pacific Railroad depot, a brick edifice in the chateau style, was built in 1901 and moved to its current location downtown about 20 years ago when Interstate 90 came through Wallace. It also houses a museum.
- The Silver Valley superfund cleanup reached a major milestone in July. The U.S. Environment Protection Agency announced that cleanup had been completed on 3,000 residential and commercial properties in the Silver Valley. The agency had deemed those lawns contaminated with lead from a century of mining. Communities within the 21-square-mile area around the old Bunker Hill mining and smelting complex cooperated in a effort to sample, partially remove and cap metals-contaminated soil in yards, school and public play grounds, commercial properties and road shoulders. In 1994, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the federal government signed a legal agreement with five mining companies to perform a large-scale cleanup of the residential areas around Bunker Hill.

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- Clearwater County's sixth largest employer is State Hospital North, a mental health facility operated by Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in Orofino. Recognizing a backlog of people waiting for beds at state mental health facilities, the Idaho Legislature increased the budget by \$1.8 million to provide more resources for mental health treatment. Over the last two years, the psychiatric hospital's employment has risen from 90 to 110 workers. About half of the staff are in nursing services: registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and psychiatric technicians. The rest are in clinical, therapeutic services, lab, pharmacy, maintenance, dietary and administration.
- Verizon plans to replace a microwave system with a fiber-optic line from Moscow through Orofino to Weippe to improve cell phone reception, speed up Internet access and shorten the time it takes to restore power after an outage. The fiber-optic line will provide eight times more capacity and additional space can be accomplished easily. Once the line is operational on Dec. 8, businesses, the hospital and schools will be able to have Verizon install new high-volume lines that can transmit data such as engineering plans, medical records and financial reports. It will also allow expansion of cellular telephone service because companies link in with the same Verizon network that carries telephone calls. It will also be easier to locate the source of outages so disruptions in service can be limited to one and five hours. In addition, Verizon's technicians are more familiar with fiber-optic technology, and the lines have an around-the-clock monitoring system. Then Verizon will install high-volume lines to provide for inner office needs to the hospital, schools and businesses, which will allow them to reliably transmit records, reports and other data in a timely manner. The upgrades will cost about \$3.5 million. Verizon is making the improvements after its performance in Clearwater County was brought to the attention of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission by local residents. One issue that will remain after the upgrade is high-speed Internet service for home and small-business use. Residents who live more than 15,000 feet from the Verizon office in Orofino will not receive high-speed Internet access unless they install a heavy duty line. So even though Weippe is getting a fiber-optic line, it won't be getting high-speed Internet from Verizon right now because that requires additional investment from Verizon.
- Clearwater County Economic Development, based in Orofino, has taken the lead in helping Clearwater County and other rural areas with telecommunications issues.

IDAHO & LEWIS COUNTIES

- Bennett Forest Industries, owner of the sawmill in Grangeville, is merging with Riley Creek Lumber, a Laclede-based company with three mills in the Idaho Panhandle. The merger, which will be completed by Sept. 1, is not expected to affect employment at the Grangeville mill, where about 150 people work. The merger does not affect the Guy Bennett Lumber Company, which operates mills in Clarkston and Princeton.
- The endowment for the Historical Museum at St. Gertrude in Cottonwood recently received a \$50,000 grant from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation. The museum, located next to the Benedictine Monastery of St. Gertrude and founded by the sisters of St. Gertrude, focuses on the history

of Idaho. The museum's endowment will provide for the continuing preservation, exhibition and interpretation of Idaho's heritage. The 7,200-square-foot museum houses collections of over 70,000 artifacts with 12,000 on display. In addition to the museum, the monastery also runs the Spirit Center, a retreat and conference center that hosts more than 1,500 overnight visitors a year. The monastery will begin celebrating its centennial in August and continue the celebration through August 2009.

- On July 1, the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests celebrated their centennials. Three years after the U.S. Forest Service had been established, an executive order by President Theodore Roosevelt established both national forests. The land was withdrawn from all forms of development except for mining. Since then, the national forests have played a major role in the local economy — as an employer, protector of resources that bring thousands of visitors to the region each year and source of timber. The Forest Service, with average monthly employment of 292 in 2007, is the largest employer in Idaho County, and with average employment of 110 in 2007 is the fifth largest employer in Clearwater County. The average annual wage for a Forest Service employee in the two counties in 2007 was \$56,815.

LATAH COUNTY

- In its August/September issue, Mother Earth News named Moscow one of the nine "Great Places You've Never Heard Of." The article cited Moscow's large community of artists and Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival as well as a civic can-do attitude that preserves the natural resources such as the effort to clean up Paradise Creek. The annual list recognizes small cities that combine classic elements such as comfortable climate and compelling architecture with positive civic energy, investment in the local economy and meaningful environmental initiatives. "Cities like Moscow show that 'off the beaten path' certainly doesn't mean 'boring,'" says Bryan Welch, publisher and editorial director for the magazine. "Mother Earth News focuses on cool things you can do to live wisely and create community, and we think our readers would really identify with a place like Moscow."

NEZ PERCE & ASOTIN COUNTIES

- Construction continues on the \$17 million Nez Perce County Jail. Work began in June 2007 on the 61,674-square-foot, 156-bed complex, which will also contain the sheriff's office. The county recently let bids on a separate 3,500-square-foot building southwest of the new jail to house the sheriff's marine division. The marine building is expected to cost between \$50,000 and \$80,000. The pole building is expected to house boats, an office and equipment used by the marine division.
- Todd and Linda Blamires, who own ArtBeat, recently opened The Gift Box in Morgan's Alley in downtown Lewiston. The store features baby clothes and t-shirts made by ArtBeat. It also sells jewelry, handbags, home décor, cookware, gardening accessories, gourmet food, candles and other products of local artisans.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Macy's will close its store in Nampa's Karcher Mall in fall 2009 and open a larger store in the new Nampa Gateway Center along Interstate 84. Macy's had just renewed its Karcher Mall lease for another five years. Mall officials said the department store had been looking for a larger space. Macy's said current employees will transfer to the new store.
- IdaCorp, the parent of Idaho Power Co., reported slightly lower second-quarter profits from a year ago. Net income totaled \$17.5 million, or 39 cents a share, compared with \$18.5 million, or 42 cents a share, in the second quarter of 2007. Idaho Power profits rose to \$17.7 million from \$16.2 million, partly due to cost-containment efforts and more favorable operating conditions. That increase was offset by lower returns from the corporation's financial services subsidiary.
- Boise Cascade Holdings Inc. lost \$15.4 million in the second quarter of 2008 because of a \$20.4 million loss incurred on the sale of its 49 percent stake in Boise Inc. But the company reported that its wood products and building materials divisions were profitable during the quarter despite the nationwide residential housing slump.
- Boise State University is buoying construction activity in the region. Idaho's largest university has over 100 projects worth \$150 million under way or planned. A \$14 million football stadium expansion will be completed Aug. 30 with luxury seats, private viewing boxes, a new press box and a merchandise store. A \$12 million nursing and life sciences building will be ready for classes next summer. And expansion of the popular student union will begin in mid-August.
- A marketing company is connecting motorists with advertisers in a plan to develop moving billboards on local highways. Commuters can get between \$5 and \$200 in gas cards monthly if they put advertisements on their cars. Details about the opportunity are at freegashelp-Boise.com.
- MDU Resources Group Inc. has agreed to buy Boise-based Intermountain Gas Co. for \$328 million including debt. Intermountain Gas, which has more than 300,000 customers and about 330 employees in Idaho, began looking for a buyer in April. MDU, a Bismarck, N.Dak.-based energy, mining and construction company, expects to close the deal in the fourth quarter of this year. The sale is subject to regulatory reviews.
- Boise-based Holland Realty is merging with the Coldwell Banker Tomlinson Group of Coeur d'Alene to form southwestern Idaho's largest residential real estate company. The new business, which will keep the Coldwell Banker Tomlinson Group name, will have about 13 percent of the market. Fred Meyer, president of Coldwell Banker Tomlinson Northwest, said that if the companies had been combined in 2007, their \$2.7 billion in sales would have ranked the company 27th in the nation. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.
- Boise's locomotive maker, MotivePower Inc., has delivered the first of its new MPXpress commuter locomotives to Minnesota's Northstar Corridor Development Authority. MotivePower will build five locomotives for the Northstar Commuter Rail Project, a new 82-mile commuter service in Minneapolis.

- Skyrocketing gas prices forced Nampa-based Mission Aviation Fellowship to cut back or suspend flights into some of the most isolated regions of the world, where it has been flying in medical supplies and missionaries. The faith-based organization cut operational costs 10 percent but avoided laying off any of its 155 Nampa employees. Fuel prices have tripled for the organization that operates on a \$38 million annual budget.
- The economic slowdown is taking its toll on eateries. The latest victim is Andrae's, which served contemporary French cuisine in downtown Boise. Another high-end dining establishment, the MilkyWay, closed in April. Mortimer's Idaho Cuisine closed in June. And Gino's Grill recently announced plans to move from downtown Boise to Meridian, partly because gas prices are keeping customers from driving to downtown Boise.
- MobileDataforce, a Boise software company for hand-held devices, has laid off seven of its 38 workers in response to a slowing market. The company's anticipated 200 percent revenue increase in 2008 has not materialized as service companies using its products tightened their belts in response to the national housing slump.
- The Board of Regents of Concordia University in Portland has authorized the opening of a new law school in Boise, subject to the acquisition of startup capital and approval of a dean. Boise is one of the few cities its size without a law school, but in recent months both Concordia and the University of Idaho have announced plans to change that.
- A \$97 million retirement community is planned for southeastern Boise's Harris Ranch development. The project is expected to be completed by 2011. It is being developed by Texas-based Greystone Communities. The 12.6-acre Boise Retirement Community proposes 157 independent living residences with underground parking, 12 single-story cottages, 38 assisted-living units, 16 memory-support suites and 40 skilled nursing rooms. It will focus on "active lifestyles" and include round-the-clock security and lifetime access to future long-term health care.
- Starbucks Corp. is closing two southwestern Idaho locations as part of its plan to shed 600 outlets nationwide. Targeted are stores in the Capitol Village shopping center near Boise State University and one in Meridian.
- Discount retailer Bi-Mart Corp. will anchor a commercial development planned in Emmett. Bi-Mart will start site work late this year depending on permit approval and will open the 32,000-square-foot store by next summer. The employee-owned company based in Eugene, Ore., targets suburban locations that it believes are underserved in the merchandise and prices that it offers. The stores will employ 55 to 65.
- McAlvain Construction Inc. of Boise will be the general contractor for the Ray Neef M.D. River Recreation Park in Boise. Friends of Parks, a volunteer organization, is raising \$4.4 million to finance the project. River Recreation Park will be located on the Boise River west of downtown Boise and near Veterans Memorial Park. Harvey and Margo Neef have pledged \$1 million in honor of their son, Ray Neef, a kayaker who died in a boating accident.
- The escalating cost of fuel is affecting municipal operations in southwestern Idaho. Boise Mayor Dave Bieter and his executive management team have adopted an anti-idling policy for city vehicles when possible. The city says studies have shown it is more fuel-efficient to turn vehicles off and then restart them than to leave them idling for more than 30 seconds. In Caldwell, the city council has imposed a surcharge on users of Allied Waste Services to offset rising fuel costs. The charge is 80 cents a month for nor-

mal residential users and rises for commercial accounts based on frequency, type of use and load weight.

- Boise Inc. has become a member of the Chicago Climate Exchange, North America's only voluntary, legally binding system for trading so-called carbon credits as futures contracts. The paper and packaging manufacturer with 4,600 employees nationwide has committed itself to achieve an absolute greenhouse gas emission reduction of 6 percent below its average from 1998 to 2001 by the end of 2010.
- Tamarack Resort in central Idaho hopes to sell \$670 million in bonds to boost finances after the real-estate market slowdown brought construction to a standstill and chased off investors including tennis stars Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf. Jean-Pierre Boespflug and Alfredo Miguel Afif, who own the Donnelly ski, golf and lake resort, have sought bankruptcy protection and been sued by investment bank Credit Suisse over a \$260 million loan default. Boespflug's Cross Atlantic Real Estate owns 48 percent of Tamarack, while Afif's VPG Investments has 27 percent. The resort will use bond proceeds to complete unfinished buildings, make good on more than three dozen liens filed by unpaid contractors and repay debt to Credit Suisse to resolve the loan dispute.
- DBSI Acquisitions of Boise, a nationwide buyer of investment-grade commercial and residential real estate has bought \$97.5 million in real estate across the country. The purchases include a three-story office building in Virginia, the Portofino Tech Center in Houston, Florissant Marketplace in St. Louis, the Topsham Fair Mall in Maine and the Pinehurst Square in Bismarck, N.Dak.
- Sorrento Lactalis, the Nampa-area cheese factory, will add 40 to 50 manufacturing jobs in about 20 months when it completes a \$50 million whey processing plant. The company currently employs 504 people. The new plant will allow cheese production to increase from 400,000 to 600,000 pounds per day within three years.
- The Idaho Press-Tribune newspaper in Nampa laid off 16 people as a result of the slowing economy. None of the layoffs were in the newsroom, but over time, some newsroom positions have not been filled. The paper has about 150 employees. The Idaho Statesman in Boise announced 16 layoffs in June and said 22 pressroom workers would lose their jobs when the Statesman transfers the printing of the newspaper from its Boise plant to the Press-Tribune early next year. The Statesman has also left some newsroom vacancies unfilled.

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- Hobie Call has managed to put Hailey on the map, or rather in the book, the Guinness Book of World Records, that is. The former track star at the College of Southern Idaho and current marathon runner managed to break the world record for lunges by almost six minutes – lunging a full mile or four laps around the track in 24 minutes 56 seconds. The old record of 30 minutes and 50 seconds was set in 2002. Lunging involves taking a stride,

touching the knee to the ground with each stride and using only the leg muscles to rise again for the next lunge. Call did wear knee pads for the event and acknowledged some soreness the next day.

- Mountain Rides provides transportation service around the Ketchum and Sun Valley area free of charge. However, its long-term goal is to establish similar service for Hailey and Bellevue and to connect with the larger Ketchum downtown core — a concept referred to as “walkable communities.” Mountain Rides currently provide vanpools between Twin Falls and Shoshone into Blaine County and will eventually erect a board where riders and drivers can post notices for matchups. It has a Web site, www.RideShareOnline.com, where riders and drivers can go online and post their needs or availability of space in their vehicles.
- Hailey is encouraging Energy Star ratings for new residential construction. The city trades a delayed deadline for paying application permit fees, which allows contractors to start earlier in exchange for independent assessment of the Energy Star standards. The municipal buildings saw energy saving measures introduced in 2007 in conjunction with the Hailey Environmental Leadership Program founded by a former mayor.
- Amid all the talk about affordable apartments and homes for Ketchum service sector workers, a youth hostel has been proposed for the 411 Building in downtown Ketchum. Targeting 20 to 35 year-olds, the hostel would have 64 beds priced between \$35 and \$50 a night. The hostel would help the community diversify its visitor market beyond the affluent skiers, golfers and conference attendees normally attracted to the high-end resort. To overcome insufficient parking, the developer wants to lease space at the Park ‘n Go lot and visitors would use community bus transportation to get to the hostel downtown.
- Idaho’s Bounty continues to grow. It is drawing in more producers, more restaurants are purchasing its wholesale products, more people are joining the co-op and it just got two grants totaling \$89,000. For a \$75 fee, customers can purchase food online and pick it up at Hailey’s National Guard Armory or at the Hemingway School in Ketchum. This is a way to integrate local flavor with the desire to use the freshest produce available.
- The new 36,000-square-foot Blaine County Jail is up and running in Hailey near the airport. The former jail was 36 years old with a maximum capacity of 26 inmates. It reportedly emitted a bad odor, leaked and had routine heating and ventilation problems. The new building will house 84 prisoners, the sheriff’s office and eventually the 911 dispatch center. The estimated cost for the facility is \$11.9 million.
- The Wood River Valley is infamous for its pooch-loving ways with some restaurants going so far as providing doggy meals to their canine friends. The Animal Shelter of the Wood River Valley hosted its Mutt Strut with 50 dogs, plus owners, participating in a 2.7 mile walk with an awards party afterwards. Some of the awards included dog/owner look-a-like, best swimmer, best trick and best tail wag.
- It’s one of the biggest draws around. The Allen & Co. media spectacular in Sun Valley is all about security, secrecy and exclusivity. This year’s guest speaker was King Abdullah II of Jordan. Other notables seen in and around the Sun Valley Lodge were celebrity chef Rachel Ray, Chinese actress Xiang Ziyi, money mogul Warren Buffett, Australian financier and newly acquired Wall Street Journal owner Rupert Murdoch, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, network news anchor Tom Brokaw, designer Diane von Furstenberg and Marc Andreessen, co-founder of the latest social networking site, Ning. Another related group was partying across town at the annual barbe-

que hosted by Atlantic Aviation for the pilots and crew that flew the attendees into Hailey's Friedman Memorial Airport. This is an annual event that is much anticipated as the different jets' flight crews have become friends with rare opportunities for camaraderie due to the heavy schedule of their corporate employers. They too get an opportunity to enjoy the recreational pursuits of the Wood River Valley, taking in fly fishing, golfing, tennis and biking.



President of NV Investments Vivi Nevo, center, rides his bike as Yahoo president Sue Decker, far left, and actress Zhang Ziyi, far right, look on as they arrive for the second session of the Allen and Co. conference at Sun Valley Resort in Idaho July 12, 2007. (Reuters Photo)

- The Sun Valley Symphony Pavilion was completed in time for summer visitors to enjoy the sounds and ambiance of a Sun Valley evening alfresco. The grand opening concert was Aug.2. The design includes a curved copper shingled roof and a 70 foot high arch covered with tensile fabric. Travertine shipped from Rome finishes the exterior walls. Pavilion seating for 1,500 is available while the surrounding greens will allow another 2,500 to enjoy the notes emitted from a state-of-the-art sound system designed to enthrall all 4,000 listeners. The pavilion was largely funded by Earl Holding and family with the assistance of local symphony patrons.



The new Sun Valley Symphony Pavilion during construction, left, completed, right. The grand opening concert was Aug. 2.

- The 90-foot cellular tower scheduled for construction at Galena Summit has been vetoed by the U.S. Forest Service, claiming the tower would have detracted from the scenic qualities of the area. Enhanced emergency communication was the leading factor in support of the cell tower since the Smiley Creek area is considered a 'dead area' for wireless communications. The company requesting the tower planned on incorporating camouflage techniques like fashioning the tower in the shape of a pine tree to mitigate the visual concerns.

MINIDOKA AND CASSIA COUNTIES

- Bealls, a department store new to the state, opened in the space formerly occupied by K-Mart. Bealls' parent company, Texas-based Stage Stores, is traded on the New York Stock Exchange. It has other stores operating across the nation under names such as Pala is Royal, Peebles and Stage. Bealls market targets small to mid-size retail areas such as Burley, hub to a handful of rural communities.
- Cassia County has received a \$115,000 grant from the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation to improve boat docks at both Kunau Marina and Riverfront Marina and to buy a new patrol boat for the Cassia County Sheriff's Department.
- The Mini-Cassia Department of Labor office and the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce teamed up to provide training for potential harvest truck drivers. The lack of drivers has been an ongoing concern of most farmers during harvest. With new companies relocating to the area and dairy growth, this year should be even tougher. The two-day training was provided for just \$15, which included lunch and training materials. The 22 participants were expected to be offered jobs paying between \$8 and \$10 an hour.
- The Idaho Army National Guard Armory in Burley has been renamed the Idaho National Guard Readiness Center to reflect the active duty status of the soldiers. The building is now fully renovated and houses 56 civilian police and the recruitment office. It can be used as a community shelter in case of disaster.
- A new funeral home is in the works with construction started on the new 5,000-square-foot building. The new Morrison Funeral Home and Crematory just south of Rupert will serve both counties. The building will be completed in November.
- First American Title has finally launched an office in Burley, bringing to 17 the company's offices throughout the state.
- Charlotte's Web is a new gift shop located between Heyburn and Rupert offering home décor like large Bombay chests and big clocks along with specialty chocolates such as truffles. The 1,000-square-foot store offers free gift wrapping and a wedding registry.
- The former Albion State Normal School is now Albion's Campus Grove serving group gatherings as well as smaller numbers of people. The renovated residence hall has 65 beds and plenty of recreational activities including an above-ground pool and hot tub, disc golf, geocaching, inflatable slides and jump houses and an outdoor stage and theatre screen. An art festival was held earlier in the summer to commemorate the opening. *Note: Geocaching is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. A geocacher can place a geocache in the world, pinpoint its location using GPS technology and then share the geocache's existence and location online. Anyone with a GPS unit can then try to locate the geocache.*

LINCOLN COUNTY

- The first of five buildings comprising the new Wild West Business Park are available for lease. The partners of this venture are two business owners and developers who came from New York and have found their way to the Wood River Valley. They are business-plan savvy to the degree they are willing to provide advice to new entrepreneurs. An additional benefit for start-ups is the option of bundling the custom build-out costs into the monthly lease rate. The location is four miles north of Shoshone on Highway 75 near the intersection with Highway 26.

TWIN FALLS

- Robert Weed, the plywood manufacturer, has set up shop in the new Industrial Park adjacent to the Jayco RV plant. This is the first of many businesses expected to relocate closer to their end user, Jayco, in an effort to reduce transportation costs.
- The College of Southern Idaho is doing a makeover of its front entrance on Falls Avenue at a cost of \$700,000. The federally-funded project is expected to wrap up by mid-September. More than aesthetic, the entrance byway will be realigned to match up with Quincy Street and another lane will be added so that there will be two lanes entering and three lanes exiting. Finally, a stop light will provide a safety feature not only for the drivers but for the many pedestrians and bikers using this main thoroughfare. The tall trees that formerly lined the entrance will be removed to make way for the new traffic lanes.
- Construction of a new state building to house a State Tax Commission office has started across from the College of Southern Idaho campus. This partially completes a campus that currently has the new Idaho Department of Labor office and a multi-tenant, multi-story office building.
- Air Magic Valley was held the last weekend of July at Joslin Field Magic Valley Regional Airport. The level of volunteerism was huge and all components of the community pulled together to ensure logistics, security, safety and fun. The Blue Angels were the highlight of the two-day event that truly



Blue Angels have performed for more than 427 million people since 1946. Photo provided by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.

started mid-week with practice sessions and the renown stunt team taking Boise State football coach Chris Peterson, the community college president and a council member for a buzz above Twin Falls. The size of the crowd is estimated at up to 50,000. Actual tallies of revenue, expenses and attendance are not yet available.

- Buhl's Farmer's Market has returned to its weekly summer hours of 4:30 to 6:30 every Wednesday. The downtown market offers fresh herbs, local fruit and vegetables, crafts and dinner, if you stay too long!
- A new Mexican restaurant, Senor Habanero's, has opened in the former Taco Maker on Buhl's east side. The menu offers both Mexican and American fare with a drive-thru and options for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The owner has lived in the Magic Valley for over 10 years but has roots in both Texas and California.

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SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power counties

ECONOMIC TRENDS

More people in metropolitan Pocatello were in the labor force in June compared to a year earlier, but the number with jobs shrank. Another 517 people were looking for work in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area this June compared to June 2007, but only 99 of them found it. The result was a dramatic jump in the unemployment rate from 3.1 percent in June 2007 to 4 percent in June 2008. Four-tenths of the increase took place from May to June.

The increase in people on the job in June did not reflect an increase in the number of nonfarm jobs in the area but a seasonal rise in the number of people commuting outside the metro area to work. This is common for many educators who take summer jobs outside the area during their time off from school. Additionally, the gas and oil industries in Wyoming continue to recruit workers from southeastern Idaho, who have been returning to the area on weekends. However, the higher costs of fuel and employers' desires to move workers to different locations are making it less likely that these workers will remain part of the metropolitan labor force.

Overall, nonfarm jobs in metropolitan Pocatello were up just fractionally from May but nearly 900 below June 2007, reflecting the continued economic slowdown across the state.

Professional and business services had the largest gain in nonfarm jobs from May as construction and other seasonal employers worked through temporary employment agencies to fill out their payrolls. Combined with more modest increases in wholesale and hospitality jobs, it was enough to offset significant declines in retail and public school employment.

ABOUT INDUSTRY CLUSTERS

An industry cluster is a group of interrelated companies in a geographic region which are connected by common needs, services and products. Important common links are labor, suppliers, technology, markets, training and education, trade associations, financial institutions knowledgeable about the industry and economic development groups working to enhance the cluster. The work culture and depth of industry knowledge that develops with these clusters provide a competitive economic advantage for the companies involved and greater job opportunities for workers in the area. For many years it was believed that a business benefited most by being the only one of its kind in an area, and competing companies were discouraged. That may work sometimes. But companies that compete in terms of their finished products often benefit from the economies of scale in having a larger pool of workers who know and understand the industry and its needs. Companies can also benefit by sharing the costs of ship-

ping both finished product and raw production materials and worker training, co-oping for other purchases and developing similar political influence. Companies operating in a cluster often are identified as having expertise in their industry because of their affiliations with similar companies.

Eastern Idaho has long been recognized for its potato industry cluster. The region benefits from the strong economic impact generated by all the interrelated businesses like potato farms, specialized equipment sales and service businesses, potato processing plants, transportation providers and potato research operations.

During the past couple of years, however, another cluster seems to be developing. It is generically referred to as the “energy industry.” More specifically, this is a cluster of alternative energy companies because it does not involve the exploration or refinement of fossil fuels, which have dominated the energy scene in North America for many years.

In addition to being recognized for success in nuclear science and engineering, eastern Idaho is becoming known as a potential leader in alternative energy, given its access to useful resources. Some of the obvious natural advantages include the consistent 10 to 15 mile per hour winds, 110 days of full sunshine and about the same number of days with partial sunshine, a good water supply to grow corn and other crops used in bio-fuels and a water system that allows creation of power and irrigation by the same water source.

There are also pockets of geothermal energy in the Soda Springs and Raft River areas, which now appear to be commercially viable.

Consequently, eastern Idaho is attracting businesses and energy related companies. This growth is encouraged and supported by a wide range of government and education leaders. Table 1 on page 33 lists companies and projects that are committed to locating and growing in eastern Idaho because of their involvement in some aspect of alternative energy. With the exception of the Idaho National Laboratory and the public utilities, most of these companies are new to the area and have relocated primarily to take advantage of the developing “energy cluster.” These businesses have the potential for a significant economic impact, and the prospect for continued growth is expanding as infrastructure is developed to support them. Table 1 includes only companies that have had public recognition. The number of employees represents an estimate of those involved in some aspect of energy activity. There are other lesser known businesses that support the cluster by subcontracting with the larger companies.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Officials at the Portneuf Medical Center and the Bannock County commissioners announced two potential partners for a joint-venture to complete and operate the partially built hospital in Pocatello. The two candidates are LifePoint Hospitals and Legacy Hospitals. Both companies indicated a willingness to share management of the new hospital, and they appear to have the ability to finance the remaining \$200 million in work on the new facility. But even after the selection of a partner, the project cannot move forward until the residents of Bannock County approve a reorganization of the county-owned hospital to a non-profit entity.
- Petersen Inc., the Ogden, Utah,-based metal fabrication business that opened operations in Pocatello last fall, is expanding and now has more than 50 workers in the Gateway West Industrial Center. Providing manufacturing service for a diversified customer base has proven to be good business. Steve Petersen indicates the Pocatello operation will be built up to a work force of between 175 and 200 people.

In addition to expanding the metal fabrication business, Petersen is buying the entire 1.4-million-square-foot Gateway West Industrial Center where it is located. The sale is expected to be finalized in October, but in the meantime Petersen is working to fill the 30 percent of the complex that is now vacant. Officials with the company have also indicated plans to upgrade and modernize the complex at an estimated cost of up to \$20 million.

- Ridership at the Pocatello Regional Airport has dropped 7 percent from the first half of 2007. Airport Manager David Allen attributes the drop in passengers to the 64 percent hike in air fares and the economic slowdown that has prompted people to reconsider their travel plans.
- The \$21.9 million improvement to a 3.5-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 30 west of Lava Hot Springs should be completed in late August. It is the first part of a project which began in 2006 to widen the highway from two to four lanes all the way from Lava Hot Springs to Soda Springs. The next phase of the project is scheduled to begin in 2010.
- Hoku Materials Inc. has applied for a modified air quality permit, which would enable the company to increase production from 2,500 to 4,000 metric tons per year.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- Symbiotics has dropped its Hook Canyon pump back project in favor of a new power generating site at North Eden. Its upper reservoir would be located higher in the mountains. This project would enable Symbiotics to generate approximately 400 megawatts of power.
- The Bear Lake County Commission approved the Conceptual Master Plan for the development of 2,207 acres by Black Bear Resort. The commissioners also approved the preliminary plat for Phase I construction based on some mutually agreed-to conditions. The proposed resort has been approved for over 4,000 units of residential properties plus retail and common use facilities.

BINGHAM COUNTY

- A Bealls department store is being welcomed in Blackfoot. The store offers a large selection of mid-priced clothing for the entire family. It is expected the store will also provide jobs for 10 to 15 workers, depending on the volume of business.
- Blackfoot's municipal airport, home to more than 60 planes, will undergo \$250,000 in rehabilitation and maintenance work. That includes reconstruction of a wide, parallel lane to the hangars near the terminal and seal coating plus painting of the runway. The project is being paid for primarily with Federal Aviation Administration grants.
- Curtis Green opened a custom embroidery, silk screening and decal production business in Blackfoot. Green's son, Nic, will also operate a business in the same building specializing in vinyl cutting involving anything up to 20-foot banners
- Several local residents have formed a committee to consider creating a charter middle school – the Idaho Science and Technology Charter School – in Groveland. The proposal estimates 300 sixth through eighth grade students would begin attending in fall 2009. Initial construction will cost about \$3.5 million, and the project has received a special use permit from the Bingham County Planning and Zoning Commission.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- Bids for a new wastewater treatment plant in Soda Spring were \$4.8 million more than the city-passed bond for \$6.7 million. But since there is very little disagreement that the project is needed, city officials are considering ways to reduce the cost of construction. They are also considering other funding options such as increasing sewer rates from an average of \$36 to \$48 a month.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

- A detailed site feasibility study on locating a new Franklin County Medical Center will be conducted by Architectural Nexus of Logan, Utah. A preliminary study was done when land was donated for the hospital by the Larry H. Miller family. But now the hospital board wants a more detailed study with cost and completion date projections.
- Based on surveys of residents in Cache County, Utah, it appears more likely the pipeline proposed by Ruby Pipeline to transport gas from Wyoming to Oregon will cross northern Utah rather than southeastern Idaho through Franklin County. Ruby Pipeline is a subsidiary of El Paso Corp., and the pipeline is expected to provide up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas to a substation in Marlin, Ore.
- Ron Keller Tire is expanding and remodeling to celebrate its 50th anniversary in downtown Preston. In addition to making the entire operation more efficient, the \$450,000 project will allow for accommodation of three 10-wheelers or tractor-trucks at one time. The project is expected to be completed in late October.

ONEIDA COUNTY

- Oneida County will use a \$45,000 grant from the Idaho Parks and Recreation Department to improve the Devil Creek Reservoir Road using mill tailings from an Interstate 15 resurfacing project.

POWER COUNTY

- Southeast Idaho Energy LLC has asked the Power County Planning and Zoning Commission for a special use permit for Phase 1 of its Power County Advanced Energy Center on 4,350 acres northwest of American Falls. The company has also applied for an air quality permit from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. It wants to begin construction in June 2009.
- Rocky Mountain Corrections is proposing a new jail for 250 state and 50 county inmates in Power County. Randy Blades, warden at the Idaho Correctional Institution in Boise has given the company a letter expressing the state's intent to contract with the county to house prisoners. The Power County Commission appears to favor the idea. Costs and locations of the project are being studied, and public input is being considered prior to beginning the permitting process.
- Salisbury Management, a division of AgStar Financial Services, has hired three staff to operate its office in American Falls. The company offers financial, business and succession planning services to farm and other agribusiness clients.

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Table 1: ALTERNATE ENERGY COMPANIES

Currently Operating					
COMPANY/PROJECT	LOCATION	INDUSTRY	LABOR FORCE	CAPITAL EXPENSE	NOTES
INL Battelle Energy Alliance	Bonneville/Butte	All Sectors	3,835	Not available	Existing facility
Wolverine Wind Farm	Bonneville/Bingham	Wind Energy	35	\$75 million	Running since 2005
AMET	Rexburg	Wind Energy	60	Not available	Existing facility
Premier Technology	Blackfoot/Pocatello	All Sectors	350	\$11 million	Existing facility
ESTEC	Pocatello	All Sectors	10	\$4 million	Energy System Training Center
Idaho Accelerator Center	Pocatello	All Sectors	10	Not available	Testing facility
Petersen Inc.	Pocatello	All Sectors	60	\$5 million	Workforce growing 10/month
Idaho Power	East Idaho	All Sectors	90	Not available	Expanding transmission lines
Rocky Mountain Power	East Idaho	All Sectors	40	Not available	Expanding transmission lines

Announced Plans					
COMPANY/PROJECT	LOCATION	INDUSTRY	LABOR FORCE	CAPITAL EXPENSE	NOTES
Hoku Material	Pocatello	Solar	250	\$400 million	Under construction
Nordic Windpower	Pocatello	Wind	130	\$3.5 million	Facility being renovated
CAES	Idaho Falls	All Sectors	140	\$17 million	Center for Alternative Energy
Ridgeline Energy Phase 1	Blackfoot/Firth	Wind	45	\$150 million	Permitting in process
Logite International LLC	Blackfoot/Firth	Bio fuel	25	\$10 million	Permitting in process
Southeast Idaho Energy	American Falls	Coal gasification	150	\$2 billion	Permitting in process
Areva	Idaho Falls	Nuclear	250	\$2.5 billion	Permitting in process
Symbiotics	Bear Lake area	Hydro	Unk	Not available	600 mega watt pump-back

EAST CENTRAL IDAHO

Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Custer, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison & Teton counties

GETTING TO KNOW RIGBY, IDAHO

Rigby, Idaho, has come a long way from more than a century ago when it was first settled. It was named for William Rigby, who was born in Manchester, England, in 1833. He helped established over 44 communities in Utah and Idaho. He built up ranches, nurseries, sawmills, mercantiles and waterways in three different states. He served in the Idaho House of Representatives from 1897-1898. For 17 years, he labored as the founding father and bishop of Newton, Utah, and then served another 17 years in the Bannock Stake presidency of Idaho, one of the largest stakes in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.*



William Rigby

Rigby was incorporated as a village in 1903. It is located in Jefferson County on U.S. Highway 20 about 15 miles north of Idaho Falls and is the county seat of Jefferson County.

Although Rigby is not large, it is in a unique position for growth. Larger cities to the north and south have both been experiencing incredible growth the past several years, and Rigby is feeling the effect.

Between 2004 and 2007, Rigby was among the 25 fastest growing cities in Idaho. Its population jumped over 10 percent in that period.

Some chose Rigby because taxes are less than in the neighboring cities, others for the country appeal while still close to larger cities.



The Planning and Zoning Commission was not used to responding to such growth demands, and infrastructure was inadequate for the expansion. But the city is working through those growing pains. Growth was even stronger in the county, most of it just on the outskirts of the city. Jefferson County's population was up over 11 percent from 2004 to 2007, the fifth fastest growth rate in the state.

Jefferson County including Rigby is part of the Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area. The 2000 census found that 40 percent of city residents commute south to Idaho Falls for work and another 1 percent north to Rexburg for work. Both larger cities are just 15 minutes drive, and each provides Rigby residents with a wide variety of shopping, entertainment and cultural choices. A large number of residents work for the federal government or federal contractors through the Idaho National Laboratory, but agriculture is still a large part of the county. Farming, ranching and fresh-pack warehouses and processing plants are also large employers.

Rigby is most famous for being the "birthplace of television." As a Rigby High School student, Philo Taylor Farnsworth devised a practical system of broadcasting images. At age 20 he produced the first all-electronic television image. Original tubes from Farnsworth's early experiments are now held by the Jefferson County Museum in Rigby. A section of the Yellowstone highway, passing through the community, has been named in Farnsworth's honor.

Rigby is also the birthplace of Larry Wilson, a member of the National Football League Hall of Fame who played safety for 13 seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals.

**Information on William Rigby is from William F. Rigby: The True Aim of a Noble Man by Cathryn Hendricks Housley.*

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Linens 'n Things closed at the Grand Teton Plaza in Idaho Falls. It is one of 120 stores the company is closing since it filed for debt reorganization under Chapter 11 of the federal bankruptcy laws. The company will still have 470 stores nationwide. This closure affected about two dozen employees.

LEMHI COUNTY

- A new city administrator has been hired in Salmon, filling a job that has been vacant since January. George Ambrose took over on June 30. Ambrose and his wife Tam purchased the North Fork Store and Café in January. They changed the name to The Village at North Fork, installed a boat ramp and upgraded the gasoline facilities. Two of their sons and their wives moved to the area to help run the business. Tam Ambrose's grandfather homesteaded the area, and her mother still lives in Panther Creek. George Ambrose, a native of Missouri, most recently came from Salt Lake City, where he had been president of several construction companies.

MADISON COUNTY

- Groundbreaking for the new Madison High School took place in late June. The new school should be completed for the 2010 school year. The almost 226,000-square-foot school will have 52 academic classrooms, 25,000 square feet for vocational education, 13,450 square feet for a music department, a main gym that will seat 2,400 and a performing arts center to seat 1,200. Updates on the progress can be found at www.buildmadison.net along with conceptual drawings.

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DIRECT DEPOSIT OFFERED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMANTS

Unemployment insurance claimants throughout Idaho can now have their weekly benefit checks deposited directly into their bank checking accounts.

After a month-long pilot test of the direct deposit system in Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello, the Idaho Department of Labor extended the direct deposit option to claimants statewide beginning June 30.

To take advantage of direct deposit, claimants must have a bank checking account and a personal e-mail address. Benefits payments will be deposited within four business days after claimants certify their weekly eligibility using the department's automated Internet Continued Claim or Tel-A-Claim systems.

Direct deposit should improve service to unemployed workers while helping the department reduce administrative costs in a period of increasing budget constraints.

"Direct deposit is a safe, quick and easy way for claimants to receive their unemployment insurance benefits," bureau chief Roger Holmes said. "It removes the risk of delayed mail and lost or stolen checks. It also gets rid of check cashing fees and eliminates the time and gas claimants would use to drive somewhere to cash or deposit checks."

The department expects at least 30 percent of claimants to opt for direct deposit. Those who do not specifically select direct deposit will continue receiving their benefit checks by mail.

Unemployed workers can sign up for direct deposit online at <http://labor.idaho.gov/iw> and clicking on the direct deposit tab.

Direct deposit is faster and more secure than mail. It is less expensive because there is no cost for printing benefit checks, no postage for mailing and fewer stop payment charges for lost or stolen checks.

In 2007, Idaho issued nearly 530,000 unemployment checks. The Department of Labor estimates that if just half the benefit claimants participate in direct deposit, it will save \$130,500 annually in postage and processing costs.

State of Idaho Data

June 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to May 2007 data *(continued on next page)*.

Seasonally Adjusted Data	Civilian Labor Force	June 2008			Civilian Labor Force	June 2007		
		# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment		# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
STATE OF IDAHO	752,473	28,664	3.8	723,809	755,181	20,365	2.7	734,816
COUNTIES								
ADA (1)	192,153	7,659	4.0	184,494	195,540	5,041	2.6	190,499
ADAMS	2,395	115	4.8	2,280	2,407	59	2.5	2,347
BANNOCK (8)	38,565	1,485	3.8	37,081	38,117	1,127	3.0	36,990
BEAR LAKE	3,290	82	2.5	3,208	3,206	81	2.5	3,126
BENEWAH	4,153	182	4.4	3,971	4,195	124	2.9	4,071
BINGHAM	21,421	720	3.4	20,701	21,308	555	2.6	20,753
BLAINE (5)	14,672	392	2.7	14,281	14,519	282	1.9	14,237
BOISE (1)	3,617	119	3.3	3,499	3,690	77	2.1	3,613
BONNER	21,923	872	4.0	21,051	21,503	561	2.6	20,942
BONNEVILLE (6)	50,942	1,422	2.8	49,520	51,138	1,099	2.1	50,039
BOUNDARY	4,214	244	5.8	3,970	4,177	166	4.0	4,011
BUTTE	1,572	43	2.7	1,528	1,443	32	2.2	1,411
CAMAS (5)	650	14	2.2	636	644	11	1.7	634
CANYON (1)	81,567	4,133	5.1	77,434	82,642	2,688	3.3	79,954
CARIBOU	3,341	105	3.1	3,236	3,418	95	2.8	3,322
CASSIA (2)	10,274	335	3.3	9,940	10,332	329	3.2	10,003
CLARK	508	12	2.3	496	519	11	2.2	508
CLEARWATER	3,340	206	6.2	3,133	3,438	125	3.6	3,314
CUSTER	2,807	73	2.6	2,734	2,829	59	2.1	2,770
ELMORE	11,776	526	4.5	11,250	11,636	401	3.4	11,234
FRANKLIN	6,289	147	2.3	6,142	6,229	113	1.8	6,115
FREMONT (9)	6,269	175	2.8	6,094	6,186	130	2.1	6,057
GEM (1)	7,254	370	5.1	6,885	7,339	229	3.1	7,110
GOODING	8,538	251	2.9	8,288	8,250	182	2.2	8,069
IDAHO	7,463	343	4.6	7,120	7,410	243	3.3	7,167
JEFFERSON (6)	11,193	308	2.8	10,885	11,249	250	2.2	10,998
JEROME (10)	10,099	351	3.5	9,747	10,212	288	2.8	9,924
KOOTENAI (3)	70,547	2,686	3.8	67,861	70,336	1,858	2.6	68,479
LATAH	16,063	505	3.1	15,558	16,308	406	2.5	15,902
LEMHI	4,369	181	4.1	4,189	4,336	129	3.0	4,207
LEWIS (4)	1,852	58	3.1	1,794	1,855	50	2.7	1,805
LINCOLN	2,579	99	3.8	2,480	2,591	60	2.3	2,531
MADISON (9)	15,585	459	2.9	15,126	15,425	390	2.5	15,035
MINIDOKA (2)	9,613	359	3.7	9,254	9,696	382	3.9	9,313
NEZ PERCE (7)	18,852	633	3.4	18,219	18,225	525	2.9	17,700
ONEIDA	2,327	65	2.8	2,262	2,280	48	2.1	2,232
OWYHEE (1)	4,681	132	2.8	4,549	4,809	112	2.3	4,697
PAYETTE	10,586	467	4.4	10,119	10,742	337	3.1	10,405
POWER (8)	3,716	211	5.7	3,505	3,647	150	4.1	3,497
SHOSHONE	6,069	327	5.4	5,742	5,917	216	3.7	5,700
TETON	6,185	94	1.5	6,091	5,960	54	0.9	5,906
TWIN FALLS (10)	37,820	1,241	3.3	36,579	38,258	1,015	2.7	37,243
VALLEY	6,098	261	4.3	5,837	5,983	113	1.9	5,870
WASHINGTON	5,244	203	3.9	5,041	5,242	164	3.1	5,078
ASOTIN WA (7)	10,600	675	6.4	9,925	9,981	505	5.1	9,476

* In thousands

State of Idaho Data

June 2008 Labor Force (preliminary) compared to May 2007 data *(continued from previous page).*

Seasonally Adjusted Data		June 2008			June 2007			
LABOR MARKET AREAS	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment	Civilian Labor Force	# Unem- ployed	% Unem- ployed	Total Employ- ment
BOISE CITY-NAMPA MSA (1)	289,273	12,413	4.3	276,860	294,020	8,147	2.8	285,873
BURLEY MicSA (2)	19,887	694	3.5	19,193	20,027	711	3.5	19,316
COEUR D'ALENE MSA (3)	70,547	2,686	3.8	67,861	70,336	1,858	2.6	68,479
GRANGEVILLE SLMA (4)	9,315	400	4.3	8,914	9,265	293	3.2	8,972
HAILEY SLMA (5)	15,323	406	2.6	14,917	15,164	293	1.9	14,870
IDAHO FALLS MSA (6)	62,135	1,731	2.8	60,405	62,386	1,349	2.2	61,037
LEWISTON MSA (7)	29,451	1,308	4.4	28,144	28,205	1,030	3.7	27,176
POCATELLO MSA (8)	42,281	1,695	4.0	40,585	41,764	1,277	3.1	40,487
REXBURG MicSA (9)	21,854	634	2.9	21,219	21,611	519	2.4	21,092
TWIN FALLS MicSA (10)	47,919	1,592	3.3	46,327	48,470	1,303	2.7	47,168
CITIES								
BOISE	110,837	4,030	3.6	106,808	112,648	2,498	2.2	110,150
CALDWELL	17,194	932	5.4	16,262	17,302	531	3.1	16,771
COEUR D' ALENE	22,284	908	4.1	21,376	22,136	592	2.7	21,544
IDAHO FALLS	28,259	777	2.7	27,483	28,297	560	2.0	27,737
LEWISTON	15,967	488	3.1	15,479	15,395	378	2.5	15,018
MERIDIAN	31,278	1,100	3.5	30,178	31,772	650	2.0	31,122
NAMPA	36,301	1,735	4.8	34,566	36,760	1,113	3.0	35,647
POCATELLO	28,435	947	3.3	27,489	28,075	687	2.4	27,388
TWIN FALLS	21,020	650	3.1	20,370	21,232	517	2.4	20,715
United States*	154,390	8,499	5.5	145,891	153,085	6,997	4.6	146,087

* In thousands

SOURCE: Idaho Department of Labor, Research & Analysis and Public Affairs.

State of Idaho Data — Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

% change from

BY PLACE OF WORK	Jun 2008*	May 2008	Jun 2007	Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	666,800	659,100	670,300	1.2	-0.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	119,300	116,000	128,600	2.8	-7.2
<i>Natural Resources & Mining</i>	5,300	4,700	4,800	12.8	10.4
Logging	1,900	1,500	1,900	26.7	0.0
Mining	3,400	3,200	2,900	6.3	17.2
Metal Ore Mining	1,300	1,300	1,000	0.0	30.0
<i>Construction</i>	51,000	49,000	56,400	4.1	-9.6
<i>Manufacturing</i>	63,000	62,300	67,400	1.1	-6.5
Durable Goods	40,200	39,900	43,600	0.8	-7.8
Wood Product Manufacturing	6,800	6,800	8,000	0.0	-15.0
Sawmills & Wood Preservation	2,200	2,200	2,600	0.0	-15.4
Veneer & Engineered Products	1,200	1,200	1,600	0.0	-25.0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing	3,400	3,400	3,800	0.0	-10.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	4,900	4,800	4,700	2.1	4.3
Machinery Manufacturing	3,100	3,200	3,000	-3.1	3.3
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	14,100	14,100	16,900	0.0	-16.6
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,800	3,500	3,600	8.6	5.6
Other Durable Goods	7,500	7,500	7,400	0.0	1.4
Nondurable Goods	22,800	22,400	23,800	1.8	-4.2
Food Manufacturing	14,500	14,200	14,900	2.1	-2.7
Fruits & Vegetable Preserving & Specialty	7,200	7,300	7,600	-1.4	-5.3
Paper Manufacturing	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,800	1,900	1,900	-5.3	-5.3
Chemical Manufacturing	2,500	2,400	2,300	4.2	8.7
Other Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,200	3,000	4.5	-23.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	547,500	543,100	541,700	0.8	1.1
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	132,600	132,000	133,400	0.5	-0.6
Trade	111,700	111,300	112,300	0.4	-0.5
Wholesale Trade	28,500	28,400	28,400	0.4	0.4
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	13,400	13,300	13,200	0.8	1.5
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	11,700	11,700	12,200	0.0	-4.1
Retail Trade	83,200	82,900	83,900	0.4	-0.8
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	13,000	12,900	12,700	0.8	2.4
Building Material and Garden Equipment	9,700	9,700	10,400	0.0	-6.7
Food & Beverage Stores	12,400	12,300	12,600	0.8	-1.6
General Merchandise Stores	17,200	16,900	16,900	1.8	1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	20,900	20,700	21,100	1.0	-0.9
Utilities	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	18,800	18,600	19,000	1.1	-1.1
Rail Transportation	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Truck Transportation	9,500	9,300	9,400	2.2	1.1
Information	11,400	11,300	11,100	0.9	2.7
Telecommunications	4,100	4,100	4,100	0.0	0.0
<i>Financial Activities</i>	32,700	32,400	32,900	0.9	-0.6
Finance & Insurance	23,800	23,600	23,700	0.8	0.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	8,900	8,800	9,200	1.1	-3.3
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	85,200	83,800	86,000	1.7	-0.9
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	33,500	33,400	34,000	0.3	-1.5
Scientific Research & Development	7,700	7,600	5,700	1.3	35.1
Management of Companies & Enterprises	7,400	7,500	7,900	-1.3	-6.3
Administrative & Support & Waste Management	44,300	42,900	44,100	3.3	0.5
Administrative & Support Services	41,200	40,900	41,800	0.7	-1.4
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	75,100	74,800	73,900	0.4	1.6
Educational Services	7,600	7,600	7,900	0.0	-3.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	67,500	67,200	66,000	0.4	2.3
Hospitals	16,700	16,500	15,700	1.2	6.4
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	67,900	65,000	66,800	4.5	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,500	9,800	10,600	17.3	8.5
Accommodation & Food Services	56,400	55,200	56,200	2.2	0.4
Accommodation	9,800	9,800	9,400	0.0	4.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	46,600	45,400	46,800	2.6	-0.4
<i>Other Services</i>	20,500	20,000	19,800	2.5	3.5
Total Government	122,100	123,800	117,800	-1.4	3.7
Federal Government	14,800	13,800	13,700	7.2	8.0
State & Local Government	107,300	110,000	104,100	-2.5	3.1
State Government	28,500	29,900	28,000	-4.7	1.8
State Government Education	12,100	14,000	12,200	-13.6	-0.8
State Government Administration	16,400	15,900	15,800	3.1	3.8
Local Government	78,800	80,100	76,100	-1.6	3.5
Local Government Education	40,200	42,100	39,300	-4.5	2.3
Local Government Administration	35,100	34,500	33,400	1.7	5.1
Local Government Tribes	3,500	3,500	3,400	0.0	2.9

*Preliminary estimate ** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

				% Change From	
	Jun 2008	May 2008	Jun 2007	Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	752,500	755,200	755,200	-0.4	-0.4
Unemployment	28,700	26,900	20,400	6.7	40.7
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.6	2.7		
Total Employment	723,800	728,300	734,800	-0.6	-1.5
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	762,500	753,100	763,900	1.2	-0.2
Unemployment	26,500	22,600	17,600	17.3	50.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.0	2.3		
Total Employment	736,000	730,500	746,300	0.8	-1.4
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾					
	5.5	5.5	4.6		
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	215.2	212.8	203.9	1.1	5.6
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	218.8	216.6	208.4	1.0	5.0
AGRICULTURE					
Agriculture Employment	47,510	46,150	47,010	2.9	1.1
Operators	9,740	9,740	9,740	0.0	0.0
Unpaid Family	360	360	350	0.0	2.9
Hired Workers	37,410	36,050	36,920	3.8	1.3
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	7,872	7,291	5,087	8.0	54.7
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	62,876	59,408	32,600	5.8	92.9
Benefit Payment Activities ⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	44,342	51,427	26,340	-13.8	68.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid	11,438,080	13,497,623	6,193,116	-15.3	84.7
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$257.95	\$262.46	\$235.12	-1.7	9.7
Covered Employers	51,287	51,514	50,639	-0.4	1.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$172,187,854	\$166,942,890	\$114,318,284	3.1	50.6

(1) Preliminary estimate

(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on intrastate and interstate agent, new and additional claims.

(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, intrastate and interstate agent.

(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, total liable activities.

Panhandle Data

Coeur d'Alene MSA Labor Force & Employment — Kootenai County

				% Change From	
	Jun 2008*	May 2007	Jun 2007	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	70,550	72,230	70,340	-2.3	0.3
Unemployed	2,690	2,730	1,860	-1.5	44.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.8	2.6		
Total Employment	67,860	69,500	68,480	-2.4	-0.9
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	71,600	70,750	71,260	1.2	0.5
Unemployed	2,510	2,390	1,620	5.0	54.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.4	2.3		
Total Employment	69,090	68,360	69,640	1.1	-0.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	59,300	58,000	58,800	2.2	0.9
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	11,050	10,600	11,380	4.2	-2.9
Natural Resources & Mining	530	370	480	43.2	10.4
Construction	5,800	5,560	6,170	4.3	-6.0
Manufacturing	4,720	4,670	4,730	1.1	-0.2
Wood Product Manufacturing	790	840	940	-6.0	-16.0
Other Manufacturing	3,930	3,830	3,790	2.6	3.7
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	48,250	47,400	47,420	1.8	1.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	11,290	11,230	11,080	0.5	1.9
Wholesale Trade	1,670	1,660	1,590	0.6	5.0
Retail Trade	8,550	8,510	8,310	0.5	2.9
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,070	1,060	1,180	0.9	-9.3
Information	960	990	970	-3.0	-1.0
Financial Activities	3,160	3,150	3,140	0.3	0.6
Professional & Business Services	6,080	5,980	6,220	1.7	-2.3
Educational & Health Services	5,930	5,910	5,670	0.3	4.6
Leisure & Hospitality	9,190	8,480	9,230	8.4	-0.4
Other Services	1,620	1,570	1,490	3.2	8.7
Government Education	3,380	3,690	3,390	-8.4	-0.3
Government Administration	5,670	5,460	5,380	3.8	5.4
Government Tribes	970	940	850	3.2	14.1

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

North Central Idaho Data

Lewiston MSA Labor Force & Employment — Nez Perce County, Idaho and Asotin County, Wash.

	Jun 2008*	May 2008	Jun 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,450	29,880	28,210	-1.4	4.4
Unemployment	1,310	1,160	1,030	12.9	27.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	3.9	3.7		
Total Employment	28,140	28,720	27,180	-2.0	3.5
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	29,910	30,070	28,610	-0.5	4.5
Unemployment	1,250	1,090	950	14.7	31.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.2	3.6	3.3		
Total Employment	28,660	28,980	27,660	-1.1	3.6
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	28,780	28,840	27,640	-0.2	4.1
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	4,710	4,600	4,960	2.4	-5.0
Natural Resources & Mining	190	190	250	0.0	-24.0
Construction	1,310	1,160	1,390	12.9	-5.8
Manufacturing	3,210	3,250	3,320	-1.2	-3.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	500	530	610	-5.7	-18.0
Paper Manufacturing	1,160	1,160	1,160	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	1,550	1,560	1,550	-0.6	0.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	24,070	24,240	22,680	-0.7	6.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,660	5,590	5,430	1.3	4.2
Wholesale Trade	640	680	650	-5.9	-1.5
Retail Trade	3,750	3,680	3,580	1.9	4.7
Utilities	90	90	90	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,180	1,140	1,110	3.5	6.3
Information	390	360	410	8.3	-4.9
Financial Activities	2,820	2,830	2,120	-0.4	33.0
Professional & Business Services	1,960	1,960	1,640	0.0	19.5
Education & Health Services	4,160	4,340	4,310	-4.1	-3.5
Leisure & Hospitality	2,770	2,740	2,760	1.1	0.4
Other Services	1,050	1,050	1,090	0.0	-3.7
Government Education	2,420	2,570	2,310	-5.8	4.8
Government Administration	2,090	2,060	1,910	1.5	9.4
Government Tribes	750	740	700	1.4	7.1

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Southwestern Idaho Data

Boise-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment — Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties

	Jun 2008*	May 2007	Jun 2007	% Change	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	289,300	290,600	294,000	-0.4	-1.6
Unemployment	12,400	11,300	8,100	9.7	53.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	3.9	2.8		
Total Employment	276,900	279,300	285,900	-0.9	-3.1
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	293,800	292,800	298,300	0.3	-1.5
Unemployment	11,100	8,900	6,800	24.7	63.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.0	2.3		
Total Employment	282,700	283,900	291,500	-0.4	-3.0
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	277,000	276,700	278,200	0.1	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,900	50,200	56,600	1.4	-10.1
<i>Natural Resources & Construction</i>	21,600	21,200	24,600	1.9	-12.2
Construction	21,200	20,800	24,300	1.9	-12.8
<i>Manufacturing</i>	29,300	29,000	32,000	1.0	-8.4
Durable Goods	22,600	22,400	25,300	0.9	-10.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,400	2,400	2,500	0.0	-4.0
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,500	1,500	1,600	0.0	-6.3
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,200	1,200	8.3	8.3
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	12,600	12,600	15,000	0.0	-16.0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,400	2,400	2,500	0.0	-4.0
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,300	2,500	4.3	-4.0
Nondurable Goods	6,700	6,600	6,700	1.5	0.0
Food Manufacturing	4,700	4,700	4,500	0.0	4.4
Printing & Related Support Activities	800	700	800	14.3	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,200	1,200	1,400	0.0	-14.3
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	226,100	226,500	221,600	-0.2	2.0
<i>Trade, Transportation, & Utilities</i>	54,100	53,900	54,100	0.4	0.0
Trade	45,700	45,500	46,300	0.4	-1.3
Wholesale Trade	12,900	12,800	12,600	0.8	2.4
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,400	7,400	7,200	0.0	2.8
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	4,000	4,000	3,900	0.0	2.6
Retail Trade	32,800	32,700	33,700	0.3	-2.7
Food & Beverage Stores	4,400	4,300	4,500	2.3	-2.2
General Merchandise Stores	7,100	7,000	7,000	1.4	1.4
All Other Retail Trade	21,300	21,400	22,200	-0.5	-4.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	8,400	8,400	7,800	0.0	7.7
Utilities	600	700	600	-14.3	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	7,800	7,700	7,200	1.3	8.3
<i>Information</i>	5,000	5,000	4,800	0.0	4.2
Telecommunications	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
<i>Financial Activities</i>	14,200	14,200	14,300	0.0	-0.7
Finance & Insurance	10,300	10,300	10,000	0.0	3.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,900	3,900	4,300	0.0	-9.3
<i>Professional & Business Services</i>	40,800	40,800	41,200	0.0	-1.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	13,600	13,600	12,500	0.0	8.8
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,700	5,700	5,800	0.0	-1.7
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	21,500	21,500	22,900	0.0	-6.1
<i>Educational & Health Services</i>	34,500	34,500	33,100	0.0	4.2
Educational Services	2,800	3,100	2,500	-9.7	12.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	31,700	31,400	30,600	1.0	3.6
Hospitals	10,200	10,100	9,800	1.0	4.1
<i>Leisure & Hospitality</i>	25,000	24,400	26,200	2.5	-4.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	2,900	2,500	3,800	16.0	-23.7
Accommodation & Food Services	22,100	21,900	22,400	0.9	-1.3
Accommodation	2,600	2,500	2,400	4.0	8.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,500	19,400	20,000	0.5	-2.5
<i>Other Services</i>	8,500	8,300	7,100	2.4	19.7
Total Government	44,000	45,400	40,800	-3.1	7.8
Federal Government	6,300	6,400	6,000	-1.6	5.0
State & Local Government	37,700	39,000	34,800	-3.3	8.3
State Government	13,500	14,400	12,700	-6.3	6.3
State Government Education	4,100	5,000	3,700	-18.0	10.8
State Government Administration	9,400	9,400	9,000	0.0	4.4
Local Government	24,200	24,600	22,100	-1.6	9.5
Local Government Education	14,700	15,400	13,500	-4.5	8.9
Local Government Administration	9,500	9,200	8,600	3.3	10.5

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

South Central Idaho Data

Twin Falls-Jerome MicSA Labor Force & Employment – Twin Falls and Jerome counties

				% Change From	
	Jun 2008*	May 2007	Jun 2007	Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	47,920	48,810	48,480	-1.8	-1.2
Unemployment	1,590	1,340	1,300	18.7	22.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.3	2.7	2.7		
Total Employment	46,330	47,470	47,180	-2.4	-1.8
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	48,420	48,220	48,890	0.4	-1.0
Unemployment	1,420	1,120	1,090	26.8	30.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	2.3	2.2		
Total Employment	47,000	47,100	47,800	-0.2	-1.7
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	40,190	40,080	40,170	0.3	0.0
<i>Goods-Providing Industries</i>	7,370	7,260	7,070	1.5	4.2
Natural Resources & Mining	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Construction	2,520	2,490	2,490	1.2	1.2
Manufacturing	4,790	4,710	4,520	1.7	6.0
Food Manufacturing	2,680	2,590	2,430	3.5	10.3
Other Manufacturing	2,110	2,120	2,090	-0.5	1.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	32,820	32,820	33,100	0.0	-0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	9,890	10,010	9,910	-1.2	-0.2
Wholesale Trade	2,030	2,030	1,970	0.0	3.0
Retail Trade	5,640	5,670	5,870	-0.5	-3.9
Utilities	180	180	180	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	2,040	2,130	1,890	-4.2	7.9
Information	680	670	690	1.5	-1.4
Financial Activities	1,630	1,670	1,770	-2.4	-7.9
Professional & Business Services	4,820	4,460	5,160	8.1	-6.6
Educational & Health Services	5,400	5,420	5,200	-0.4	3.8
Leisure & Hospitality	3,450	3,430	3,320	0.6	3.9
Other Services	1,300	1,410	1,510	-7.8	-13.9
Government Education	3,150	3,360	3,040	-6.3	3.6
Government Administration	2,500	2,390	2,500	4.6	0.0

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Southeastern Idaho Data

Pocatello MSA Labor Force & Employment Bannock and Power counties

	Jun 2008*	May 2008	Jun 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	42,281	42,544	41,764	-0.6	1.2
Unemployment	1,695	1,539	1,277	10.1	32.7
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.6	3.1		
Total Employment	40,586	41,005	40,487	-1.0	0.2
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	43,716	43,705	43,120	0.0	1.4
Unemployment	1,508	1,252	1,066	20.4	41.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.4	2.9	2.5		
Total Employment	42,208	42,453	42,054	-0.6	0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	38,890	38,720	39,770	0.4	-2.2
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	5,760	5,620	5,680	2.5	1.4
Natural Resources & Mining	30	30	20	0.0	50.0
Construction	2,010	1,960	2,160	2.6	-6.9
Manufacturing	3,700	3,630	3,500	1.9	5.7
Food Manufacturing	1,440	1,370	1,330	5.1	8.3
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	190	190	180	0.0	5.6
Machinery Manufacturing	120	100	330	20.0	-63.6
Other Manufacturing	1,970	1,970	1,660	0.0	18.7
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	33,130	33,100	34,090	0.1	-2.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	7,640	7,740	7,340	-1.3	4.1
Wholesale Trade	1,410	1,330	1,130	6.0	24.8
Retail Trade	4,850	5,010	4,650	-3.2	4.3
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,330	1,350	1,510	-1.5	-11.9
Information	840	840	840	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	2,110	2,060	2,100	2.4	0.5
Professional & Business Services	5,280	4,850	5,450	8.9	-3.1
Educational & Health Services	3,170	3,210	3,310	-1.2	-4.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,550	3,440	3,750	3.2	-5.3
Other Services	1,110	1,110	1,160	0.0	-4.3
Government Education	5,190	5,750	5,830	-9.7	-11.0
Government Administration	4,240	4,100	4,310	3.4	-1.6

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

East Central Idaho Data

Idaho Falls MSA Labor Force & Employment – Bonneville and Jefferson counties

	Jun 2008*	May 2008	Jun 2007	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	62,130	62,530	62,390	-0.6	-0.4
Unemployment	1,730	1,480	1,350	16.9	28.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.8	2.4	2.2		
Total Employment	60,400	61,050	61,040	-1.1	-1.0
<i>Unadjusted</i>					
Civilian Labor Force	63,140	62,390	63,290	1.2	-0.2
Unemployment	1,530	1,210	1,120	26.4	36.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.4	1.9	1.8		
Total Employment	61,610	61,180	62,180	0.7	-0.9
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	53,210	52,680	52,930	1.0	0.5
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	8,450	8,160	8,760	3.6	-3.5
Construction & Natural Resources	4,700	4,470	5,200	5.1	-9.6
Manufacturing	3,750	3,690	3,560	1.6	5.3
Food Manufacturing	920	920	1,040	0.0	-11.5
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	270	260	290	3.8	-6.9
Machinery Manufacturing	170	170	170	0.0	0.0
Other Manufacturing	2,390	2,340	2,060	2.1	16.0
<i>Service-Providing Industries</i>	44,760	44,520	44,170	0.5	1.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13,870	13,750	13,230	0.9	4.8
Wholesale Trade	3,370	3,420	3,570	-1.5	-5.6
Retail Trade	7,790	7,620	7,790	2.2	0.0
Utilities	60	60	60	0.0	0.0
Transportation	2,650	2,650	1,810	0.0	46.4
Information	1,530	1,540	1,260	-0.6	21.4
Financial Activities	2,160	2,140	2,190	0.9	-1.4
Professional & Business Services	5,600	5,550	6,160	0.9	-9.1
Educational & Health Services	7,320	7,310	7,330	0.1	-0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	4,720	4,730	5,030	-0.2	-6.2
Other Services	2,360	2,120	1,990	11.3	18.6
Government Education	3,750	3,880	3,590	-3.4	4.5
Government Administration	3,460	3,500	3,390	-1.1	2.1

*Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah and Shoshone counties.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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